Israeli assault an 'act of indescribable brutality'

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inq7.net
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, April 9, 2002 ★★ 50 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 120 P15

BETHLEHEM—Israeli troops ringing the Church of the Nativity exchanged fire early Monday with armed Palestinians holed up in one of Christianity's holiest shrines, and smoke was seen rising from the compound.

A Palestinian policeman who was trying to extinguish the blaze was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper, a fellow policeman in the compound said. The Israeli military said two Israeli soldiers were wounded.

Each side accused the other of causing the fire, which witnesses said burned in the courtyard of St. Katherine's, a Roman Catholic convent adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, built over Jesus' traditional birth

ISRAELI/A14

REUTERS

CONDEMNATION was immediate over the Israeli attack on the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born. The custodians of Catholic sites in the Holy Land called it "a violation of every law of humanity and civilization . . ."

Priest freed, not rescued by police

ERIK ARAZAS

FR. GIUSEPPE PIERANTONI in Malacañang 12 hours after his kidnappers released him: Already in paradise.

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau, Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

"A DELIBERATE handover," Italian priest Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni yesterday said of his freedom from his Moro kidnappers contrary to President Macapagal-Arroyo's claim that police had rescued him.

Pierantoni told GMA 7's "Saksi" yesterday in Manila that his release from the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group came after negotiations between his abductors and the government.

He said a "commander accompanied" him to a waiting car on a highway and turned him over to the negotiators.

Pierantoni, who spent 171 days in captivity, did not identify the negotiators, but a military official said Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, was instrumental in the release of the Italian priest.

"He (Gonzales) was the one who brought Pierantoni to Manila at around 9 a.m. using a private jet," said Brig. Gen. Angel Atutubo, Task Force Giuseppe chief.

Pierantoni said he walked for 12 hours before he was recovered by police authorities at about 2 a.m. yesterday from a forested area in Tungawan town in the newly created province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said in Malacañang that Pierantoni was recovered at about 2 a.m. following relentless operations by Task Force Mindanao, a special PNP group formed to free the priest.

PRIEST/A15

'A miracle of prayer,' says priest from Bologna

"IT WAS a miracle of prayer," Italian priest Giuseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni said of his release after almost six months of living in the jungles with members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang.

"I am particularly happy to be here," Pierantoni said in Malacañang after he was presented to a beaming President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Wearing a sports shirt and gray slacks and needing a shave, Pierantoni said he was "quite healthy" but still "a bit confused and also very tired."

He said he and his captors "lived like monkeys" and ate iguanas and jellyfish during his ordeal in Mindanao.

In an emotional reunion with his colleagues from the Sacred Heart of Jesus order in Manila, a tearful Pierantoni said he was "already in paradise" 12 hours after his release from the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang.

"Sometimes we lived like monkeys in trees," the 45-year-old Bologna native told AFP, explaining the rebels' attempts to evade capture.

"My enemy in the morning is my business partner at night," looking out for hostile fire, he said.

The missionary said his ordeal was a "very peculiar experience" that exposed him to the plight of impoverished minority Muslims in Mindanao, where his former captors claim to be fighting for independence.

"We lived an extremely simple life. Sometimes, I ate mostly rice, with

A MIRACLE/A15

'Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?'

MADRID, Spain—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, taking advantage of his birthday Monday, used lyrics from a classic pop tune to open the UN World Assembly on Aging.

"I turned 64 years old today," he told representatives from 160 nations and international organizations. "I therefore feel empowered to quote the Beatles' song and ask, on behalf of all older persons: 'Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?'

"I trust the answer is yes," he added to applause.

Globally, the population of people 60 and older is growing by 2 percent each year, and seniors are expected to outnumber children for the first time in human history by 2050, according to the latest UN statistics.

Delegates to the week-long assembly are hoping to complete a global document to guide policies for the rapidly graying planet, from providing adequate pensions and affordable health care to preventing discrimination and abuse.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, whose country already has one of the world's oldest populations, said nations need to promote "active aging" through use of preventive medicine, continued learning and flexible work schedules.

"All that, apart from making good

WILL/A14

Maturan dies of heart attack at 61

By Leah Salterio

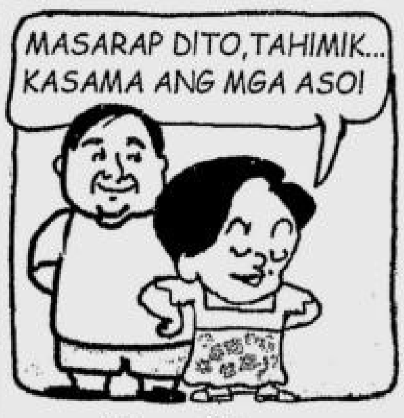
LEVI CELERIO's "Dinggin" was his all-time favorite. Sung in his signature deep velvety voice, he turned the Tagalog paean into an ultimate plea for love.

TAGALOG song as ultimate plea for love.

Diomedes Maturan, who did not have to be known as the "Perry Como of the Philippines" with "Rose Tattoo" as his anthem because he was an exponent of original Filipino music, died of a heart attack around midnight on Sunday at the Manila Doctors Hospital. He was 61.

Early Sunday evening Maturan was attending the birthday party of Dr. Peng Oreta in New Manila, Quezon City, according to his son Dominic.

MATURAN/A14



MASARAP DITO, TAHIMIK... KASAMA ANG MGA ASO!

Feeling right at home at Palace

By Dona Pazzibugan

A HANDFUL of reporters covering the Malacañang beat, on their way home around 7 p.m. last Sunday, were surprised to see a man and a woman feeling right at home seated on a bench near Gate 6 which fronts Kalayaan Hall.

FEELING/A15

Arlyn can be released for ₱1M, says Sen. Noli

By Donna S. Cueto and Rocky Nazareno

THE RANSOM demand for hostaged TV reporter Arlyn de la Cruz has reportedly been lowered from P40 million to P11 million, according to broadcaster Sen. Noli De Castro. But De Castro said he was told an initial payment of P1 million would be enough to release De la Cruz.

At a press briefing yesterday, De Castro presented the most recent photo of De la Cruz, which had been taken somewhere in Sulu, and a two-page letter dated April 1 which she had reportedly sent to a sponsor at her wedding.

The photo showed De la Cruz seated and talking with university professor Max Jundam while being guarded by a certain Lakandula, one of those who allegedly abducted her in

ARLYN/A14

"SOMEWHERE in Jolo," Net 25 journalist Arlyn de la Cruz meets with UP Prof. Dr. Max Jundam.

PVAO owes veterans P17.3 billion in benefits

By Jerry Esplanada

(Last of two parts)

THE HUK VETS

An I-Team *Report*

LEONILA Sayson is hopping mad. "I don't know exactly who they are but I think I have a valid reason for being mad at them," said the San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, native, now in her 70s.

Sayson, wife of the late Huk guerrilla Agustin Sayson, is talking about the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), based in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. In the mid-1990s, she filed a claim with PVAO for old-age pension as the surviving spouse of a war veteran. She was told, however, that "somebody else—the wife of Agustin Sayson" was already receiving the pension.

"But I'm the wife of Agustin Sayson!"

PVAO/A15

Second FRONT PAGE

'Ambush' awaits Meralco at House

By Christine Avendaño

THE HOUSE will be virtually bombarded next week by a stream of resolutions asking the chamber to open an inquiry into the Manila Electric Co.'s move to increase electricity rates.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez filed a resolution last week calling for a probe of Meralco's "unjustified" rate hike.

Next week, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran will file another resolution seeking an inquiry into such "pressing consumer issues" as the provisions in the Electric Power Reform Act pertaining to the "unbundling" of electricity charges.

The Meralco rate hike petition was made in the guise of "unbundling," or itemizing the charges, ostensibly in accordance with the provisions of the Electric Power Reform Act.

The Beltran resolution will ask the House committee on energy and public information to conduct a joint inquiry.

The Bayan Muna representative also plans to deliver a privilege speech on "an ordinary worker's view of the Meralco unbundling petition and the Electric Power Reform Act" when Congress resumes sessions next week.

On top of these resolutions, the House may also investigate the rate hike petition through another resolution filed by Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico calling for a probe of Meralco's investment in the development of the Rockwell property complex.

Suplico's measure had already been referred to the House committee on banks.

The House has already approved on third reading a bill that would allow Meralco to extend its operations for another 25 years.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, who filed the bill, said Congress had approved the extension of Meralco's legislative franchise before legislators took their Holy Week break last month.

"It's now in the hands of the Senate," said Gonzales.

Earlier, House Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla warned that Meralco might have a hard time renewing its franchise if it pushes through with its plan to increase power rates by 116 percent.

Yesterday, Remulla said he would ask his Senate colleagues to look into Meralco's franchise and "make sure they play fair."

The House approval of Meralco's legislative franchise came just days after the utility firm filed its petition for the rate increase.

Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri, chair of the House committee on legislative franchises, said his committee held a month-long hearing on the Meralco franchise so that it could tackle several issues that were raised against the firm.

Meanwhile, Meralco's rank-and-file employees belonging to the Meralco Employees and Workers Association (Mewa) said they would file their opposition to Meralco's application for a rate increase.

This was announced yesterday by the Public Interest Law Center, which represents the 2,000-member Mewa.

Lawyers Marie Yuvienco and Rachel Pastores said in a statement that their clients have decided to take the side of Meralco's 18 million consumers because they believe that the proposed rate increase cannot be justified, was unfair to consumers and inimical to the national interest.

They said the employees have vowed to expose the "manipulative practices and illegal acts" of the Meralco management, even at the risk of losing their jobs.

P15,900
Tel. Nos.: 715-8114 • 715-8141 • 715-8151 • 715-7977 • 715-7978
Call for FREE DEMO!

- From 3x8 up to 200 PABX System
- External Transfer
- With Direct Inward Station Access
- With Station Message Detail Recording
- PC Programmable
- Call Forward/Transfer/Hold/Camp-on
- Built-in Music on Hold
- Day/Night Service/ Call Restriction
- Paging Service/Conference
- Speed Dial (up to 50 numbers)
- Power Fail Transfer

Ever-Tel
PABX
Other telecom requirements available: -2,3,4 & 5 -line phone -Video Doorphone -CCTV Equipment

SPECIAL PACKAGES PROMO
HONG KONG $319 $310 $305
BANGKOK $245 $248 $258
BANGKOK + PATTAYA + RAYONG 4D3N - $ 330 5D4N - $ 350
SINGAPORE $330 GARDEN $355 GRAND CENTRAL $335 OXFORD

BUDGET FARES

HONGKONG	$ 240	FUKUOKA	$ 445
BANGKOK	$ 220	AUSTRALIA	$ 630
SINGAPORE	$ 260	NEW YORK	$ 925
VANCOUVER	$ 800	NAGOYA	$ 480
OSAKA	$ 395	TAIPEI	$ 320
TOKYO	$ 395	SEOUL	$ 415
LAW SFO	$ 840	TORONTO	$ 975

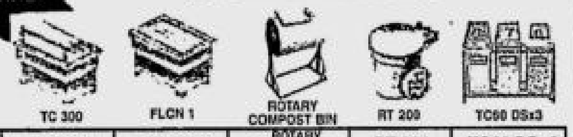
SINGAPORE + DAYTRIP MALAYSIA + DAYTRIP INDONESIA $ 378
SINGAPORE (2NITES) KUALA LUMPUR (2 NITES) OVER LAND TOURS $ 433

SANS TRAVEL & TOURS
TEL.#:438.8227/439.5749/439.5760/913.9508/913.0560
CELL. 0917-8414401, 0917-4510243, 0917-4743362
E-MAIL:sans_trvl@pacific.net.ph URDANETA:075.5683550

RICOH COPIERS • WE TRANSACT 24 HRS/DAY FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY
LIQUID TYPE P12,000 only
POWDER TYPE P16,000 only
Bond Paper P65 / rm Dispersant P42 / ltr U.S. SP. Toner P260/ltr
KAI General Mdse. Tels 716-6110 / 713-8451 780-0302 / 780-0304
(INFRONT OF PUP ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.)
GC-1 BLDG 3 GDIS METROHOMES, PUREZA, STA MESA, MANILA
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
LUZON:
Baguio (074) 3041882 / (0918) 4223811 • Tarlac (045)8000409 / (0918) 4886874 • San Fernando, La Union 0919-3363314 • Daet (054)7216829 • Naga (054)4720494 • Iriga (054)6552024 • Legaspi (052)8203346 • Masbate (056)3332793
VISAYAS:
Cebu (032)4134148 / (0917)6062309 • Iloilo (033)3297928 • Tacloban (053)3253441 / (0919)6816273 • Catbalogan (055)2512309 • Calbayog (055)2093322
MINDANAO:
Davao (082)2226824 / (0917)7324178 • Gen. Santos (083)3020743 • Cagayan de Oro (088)2313850 / (0919)2403858 • Iligan (063)2218492 • Pagadian (062) 2144551 • Cotabato (064)4216239 / (0919)4247220

PREVENT SLEEPING WHILE DRIVING
SAVE LIVES & PREVENT FATAL CAR ACCIDENTS
NAP ZAPPER
A MUST FOR DRIVERS
Prevent Sleeping
This small electronic device comfortably resting on top of your right ear produces a Loud Alarm Sound when the driver's head nods forward due to drowsiness (sleepy) and force him to instantly wake-up due to a very annoying sound.
Sole Dist:
COLENT ENT. Suite 200 2/F, Del Monte Mansion Bldg. Del Monte Ave. cor. Speaker Perez St., Q.C. Tels. 740-3815 411-2395 to 98, 411-7157, 412-4317, 414-9890 Fax 411-2399
E-mail: colent@sfi.com.ph / colent@surfshop.net.ph

BUY FILIPINO
MAG-BUKOD
MAG-COMPOST
MAG-RECYCLE
FACTORY DIRECT



NAME	TC 300	FLCN 1	ROTARY COMPOST BIN	RT 200	TC60 DSx3
HEIGHT	43.25"	30.00"	39.00"	39.00"	40.00"
WIDTH	28.5"	28.50"	30.00"ø	25.00"ø	15.00"
LENGTH	41.75"	41.75"	–		47.00"

"KAY GANDA NG MALINIS, KAINIS ANG MADUNGIS"
Inca waste bins are easy to clean and maintain, resistant to corrosion by acids and salts, does not chip, crack, dent or rust. And are designed to blend with any surroundings. Conforms to Republic Act 9003.
Call INCA Plastics Philippines for cost estimates and arrangement for company logo printing. Different colors available
INCA Waste Disposal Bins
INCA Compost Bins
FOR SALE ODOR CONTROLLER/ COMPOST ACTIVATOR
We also sell water tanks, drums, bedliners, trays, crates, road barriers, cones, grease traps and beer kegs
INCA
For more information, contact:
INCA PLASTICS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Bldg. 4 Philcrest Compound Km. 23 West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City 1770
Tel. no. : 809-2776 • 809-2745 • Toll Free: 1-800-1888-4622
Fax no. : 809-1108 • website: http://www.inca.cjb.net
E-mail : incaphil@edsamail.com.ph

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE

4D/3N BALI	$599		
4D/3N HONGKONG	$265	4D/3N KUALA	$400
4D/3N BANGKOK	$248	3D/2N GUAM	$415
4D/3N SINGAPORE	$339	3D/2N SAIGON	$313
12 DAYS EASTERN EUROPE	$1,868	14 DAYS ESCRIVA CANNONIZATION	$2,568

DOMESTIC PACKAGE		TICKET ONLY	
3D/2N BORACAY	PHP 8,750	Hongkong	$238
3D/2N PALAWAN	PHP 7,999	Bangkok	$226
3D/2N BANAUE	PHP 2,950	Singapore	$278
CORREGIDOR (DAYTOUR)	PHP 1,000	Seoul	$406
3D/2N BOHOL	PHP 3,750	Tokyo	$396
		Los Angeles	$736

GRAJAN INT'L TRAVEL & TOURS
1F Queensland Building, #4 Cagayan St., cor. Congressional Ave., Bagobantay, Quezon City
Tel. : 453-1312, 921-0697, 9267054,9272166,9267120
Look for Marie, Alelie, Jackie, Jenny or Nessie
DAVAO OFFICE : # 427 J.Palma Gil St., Davao City
Tel. (082) 224-6275/76 look for Aya, Bouts, Edit & Nena

HAVE A SMASHING SUMMER!
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGES
Study at VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE

CP 1	On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP 2	On Grammar & Conversational English
CP 3	On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP 1	On Business & Technical Writing
WP 2	On Feature & Creative Writing
JCP 1&2	On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't., + Reading and Comprehension **for kids**

PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1048 TO 49
ALABANG - 850-4756 / 850-4757

IMMIGRATE TO THE U.S.A.
Crispin C. Lozano, an experienced Immigration Attorney in the U.S.A. will conduct a seminar on *"How to Immigrate to the U.S.A."* Atty. Lozano represents various Hospitals and Schools in U.S. Math and Science teachers are in great demand.
You can save time and money on:
- Attorneys fees
- How to find teaching & other jobs in U.S.
- How to get a visa and green card

Everybody is welcome to attend!
Representatives from U.S. hospitals will interview Nurses with CGFNS for immigrant visa petition.
Seminar and Consultation Dates:
Manila - Manila Galleria Suites
April 6 & 13, 8:00 - 12:00 noon
April 7 & 14 - 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Call: Letty - (02) 940-0614
Cebu - Waterfront Hotel Downtown
April 9, 2002, 8-12 noon
April 10, 2002 - Consultation
Call: Carlo - (032) 346-7901
Davao - Marco Polo Hotel
April 11, 2002; 8-12 noon
April 12, 2002 - Consultation
Call: Emelly - (82) 222-3468
Fee: P2000 Seminar +snacks & materials
50% Discount if you make reservations
Fees due at the Hotel
Consultation is optional and with fee
Seats are limited. Call for reservations the local numbers or:
Crispin C. Lozano, Immigration Attorney
17057 Bellflower Blvd. Suite 205
Bellflower, California 90706
U.S. (562) 461-1355. No collect call, please

CEBU PACIFIC You above all
INCREDIBLE PACIFIC HOLIDAYS
Discover how easy it is to travel to any destination with our UNBELIEVABLE tour packages!
HONG KONG PKG TOUR
Flying 2x DAILY to HONGKONG
*Flying 3x DAILY to HONGKONG
* Starting March 27, 2002 3x daily every Wed. & Sat.
FOR AS LOW AS
$ 274 (04/27 TRAVEL COMPLETED)
$ 262 (04/30 TRAVEL COMPLETED)
$ 242 (05/15 TRAVEL COMPLETED)
SPECIAL PROMO FARE FOR OCW US$ 125
SEOUL PKG TOUR FOR AS LOW AS $ 490
We fly to SEOUL 4X WEEKLY
WE OFFER USA, EUROPEAN, AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER ASIAN DESTINATION
OCW ONE-WAY RATE TO SEOUL $ 175
• TICKETS TO ANY DESTINATION WORLDWIDE
• DOMESTIC TOUR PACKAGES
RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
NO HIDDEN CHARGES, NO UNNECESSARY FEES, NO HASSLES.
IF YOU THINK THIS IS ALL TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, WE ARE NOW OFFERING
"Fly-Now-Pay-Later"
A Travel Financing Plan from PHILIPPINE MONEYSHOP CORPORATION
TRAVELLING HAS NEVER BEEN THIS EASY!
*We're Open on Sundays
HURRY!!! BOOK NOW!!
PLEASE CALL ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PREFERRED AGENTS:

ALL ROUND TRAVEL & TOURS CORP.
1870 E. Rodriguez Sr., Blvd.
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 727-3463 / 64, 7213512
Fax No. 414-8806 / 727-7072
Cell Inquiry: 0919-418-3486

DESTINATIONS TRAVEL SERVICES
43 Paris St. Capitol Homes
Commonwealth Avenue
Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 434-5868
Telefax No.: 434-7958
e-mail: aysonj@mozcom.com

RC AQUA ROMA TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
877 Quirino Highway
Gulod, Novaliches, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 938-1622 / 935-6495
Telefax No.: 938-1661
Cell Inquiry: (0916) 382-6947
(0917) 243-9064
University Belt:
2077 Promenade Square
C.M. Recto Avenue, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 735-5601

*ACTIVE TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
Unit 013 Lower G/F SM City Arroceros
Tel. Nos.: 525-7307/14
Telefax No: 525-7672
Outlets in all SM Malls
631-7946/632-7720
635-3632/806-3521 to 24
715-7407/713-8187/935-9125 to 26
935-6513/820-6826/7065
(045)961-3028/875-1978

ATG TRAVEL & TOURS
G/F MB Aguirre Building
15 President cor. Elizalde Aves.
BF Homes Commercial Center
Parañaque City
Tels. No. 807-0483/772-2318
Telefax: 807-0486
Cell Inquiry: 0917-838-6952
0917-4480171

*FIVE WINGS TRAVEL & TOURS
A1 Casa Catalina Building
635 General. Malvar St. Malate
Tel. Nos.: 400-4604 / 400-4605
302-1612 / 302-1611
Telefax No.: 302-1613
Cell Inquiry: (0919) 599-6559

TRAVEL SPECIALIST
6 Mahusay St., UP Village, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 436-1809
434-2104 / 434-4090
Telefax No.: 921-6596
Cell Inquiry: (0917) 793-0136

*ANMA TRAVEL
LG 18 Mega Plaza Condominium
ADB Ave., Ortigas Center
Pasig City (Back of Robinson's Galleria)
Tel. Nos.: 687-7612 / 1715
687-1887 / 1889
Cell Inquiry: 0918-351-9163
anmatour@globalpinoy.com

CORDYM TOURS & TRAVEL
Room 302 LTA Building
118 Perea St., Legaspi Village
Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 812-2610 / 812-2611
816-1583 / 816-1592
Telefax No.: 812-0313
Cellphone Inquiry: (0917) 470-8013
e-mail: trcordym@info.com.ph

*GLOBAL ACCESS TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
VIRKA Building Munoz, EDSA, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 410-9147/372-9951
Hotline: 373-5262
Telefax No: 410-9147
Cell Inquiry: 0919-312-3957

UNION TRAVEL TOURS
Unit 9B Manila Midtown Arcade
M. Adriatico St. Ermita
Manila
Tel. Nos.: 525-3034 / 45
524-8609 / 10, 524-3943 / 44
Telefax No: 524-3945
e-mail: uniontra@ibahn.net

HONGKONG $306
SINGAPORE $378
BANGKOK $321
STAR CRUISES The First Global Cruise Line
TICKET ONLY:

	US$		US$		US$
HONGKONG	236	SEOUL	378	San Francisco	835
BANGKOK	296	FUKUOKA	431	VANCOUVER	875
SINGAPORE	296	KUALA	398	NEW YORK	981
OSAKA	385	TAIPEI	318	SYDNEY	695
TOKYO	398	HONOLULU	811	EUROPE	935
		LOS ANGELES	835		

SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL:
MAGELLAN WORLD TRAVEL, INC. PTAA
TELS:522-4321 * 521-9381 *526-5652 to 53 *522-4809 to11
Fax# 521-0190 * 526-5658

100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
₱12,000. ONLY LIQUID TYPE SAVIN 780 220 V, 60Hz
₱16,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 220 V, 60Hz
₱46,500. ONLY BRAND NEW DIGITAL COPIER + PRINTER 9912-A
100% GUARANTEED! KATUN TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN SHARP, CANON, RICOH, MINOLTA, TOSHIBA, SELEX, MITA, GESTETNER, RISO, KONICA, ETC.
Other Models Available FT 3013, 4418, 4222, 2260, Aficio 200 FT 4015, 4018, Savin 890, 7230, 9250
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Outlets: Cabanatuan: (0919)7090934 • Cebu: 253-2402
Tarlac: (0918)-6738457
CHEAPER REFILL INK AND CARTRIDGES FOR MOST COMPUTER PRINTER MODELS!

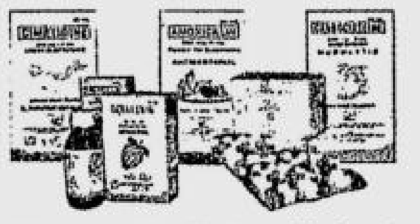
3D	Canton Fair Package	$228
5D	Canton/ Shenzhen/ Hongkong	$268
6D	Macau/Zhuhai/ Hongkong	$328
9D	Canton/ Shenzhen/ Hongkong	$348
5D	Canton/ Beijing	$398
9D	Canton/Foshan/ Beijing/Shanghai Hangzhou/ Shenzhen/Hongkong	$568
10D	Canton/Zhaoqing/ Foshan/Nanjing/ Suzhou/ Hangzhou/ Shanghai/Hongkong	$518
10D	Canton Fair/ Shenzhen/ Hongkong	$428
10D	Three Gorges Yangzi River Cruise - World's Super Dam Site	$828

PROMO FARES TO:

Hong Kong	$240
Bangkok	235
Singapore	300
Tokyo	409
Osaka	395
Seoul	370
Sydney	$676
Los Angeles	689
San Francisco	689
New York	630
Vancouver	830
Europe	780

UNION TRAVEL & TOURS
524-3943 or 44
524-8609 or 10
525-3034 or 45
525-3039
E-mail unontours@eastein.com.ph
PTAA T.A-326

LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES, INC.
" Quality is our Best Policy"
QUALITY GENERICS AT VERY COMPETITIVE PRICES



We Welcome Distributors, Wholesalers and Retailers Nationwide
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL
LAFAYETTE PHARMACEUTICALS
#132 13th Avenue Cubao, Q.C.
Tel.No.: 437-5139 / 913-3724
911 - 7292 / Telefax: 913-3723

ATTENTION LOT OWNERS
FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS WE BUILD:
3 BR 2 T&B (72) = ₱ 864,000
Ceramic tiles at living, dining & kitchen
Vinyl tiles at bedrooms
French windows
Anay finish facade
Long span color roof

3 BR 1 T&B (60) = ₱ 660,000
Vinyl tiles at living, dining, kitchen and bedrooms
French windows. Anay finish facade
Corrugated G.L.Sht roofing
2 BR 1 T&B (42) = ₱ 420,000
STANDARD FINISH
SERVICES
Residential Mass housing project
Commercial Subd. development
Townhouses Condominiums
ORIENT ORIENT-REALTY CORP.
Rm. 409 Strata 100 Bldg. Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
TEL. NOS. 632-12-71 / 0916-3109459

Corona tops list of SC nominees

By Michael L. Ubac

PRESIDENTIAL chief of staff Renato Corona was a unanimous choice of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to be one of 10 nominees for two vacant seats on the Supreme Court.

All nine members of the JBC chose Corona to be a nominee, from among whom President Macapagal-Arroyo will pick the replacements of two justices who retired recently.

In an April 5 letter to President Macapagal, the JBC, through its ex-officio chair Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., said: "The JBC has the honor to submit the following nominations for two positions of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, in the order of the number of votes obtained."

The nominees, after Corona, are Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Maria Alicia Austria Martinez, CA Associate Justices Cancio C. Garcia, Ruben T. Reyes and Romeo J. Callejo Sr., former Comelec chair and now Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Harriet Demetriou, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval, University of the Philippines law dean Raul C. Pangalangan and lawyers Loreto C. Ata, Ruben F. Balane and Rogelio A. Vinluan.

The JBC is the body that nominates judges to fill vacancies in the judiciary, from trial judges to associate justices in the Sandiganbayan, the Court of Appeals and the SC.

The JBC started to accept nominations for the SC after Associate Justices Bernardo Pardo and Arturo Buena retired on Feb. 11 and March 25, respectively.

Corona has been President Macapagal's chief of staff (COS) since she was Vice President. When she became chief executive in January last year, Corona was designated presidential spokesperson before being re-appointed COS.

Aside from Davide, the JBC is comprised of Sen. Francisco Pangilinan, Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, former University of Sto. Tomas law school dean Amado Dimayuga, lawyer Teresita Cruz-Sison, former SC justice Regino Hermosisima, court administrator Presbitero Velasco and ex-CA justice Alfredo Marigomen.

While the SC is looking to add justices, supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada launched yesterday a one-million signatures campaign calling for the resignations of Davide and Justices Artemio Panganiban and Antonio Carpio for alleged "politicking" in the court.

The Estrada loyalists also promised to oppose Davide's purported plan to run for President in 2004. ***With Philip C. Tubeza and Ma. Criselda Yambot***

Senate committee not keen on Cha-cha

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SENATE committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms is not too keen on fast-tracking changes to the 1987 Constitution, saying any amendments to the Charter should take into account "the real pulse of the people, not just the views of legal experts and lawmakers."

"Any consensus on whether to change the Charter has to reflect the popular will, the pulse of the heartland, the sentiments at ground level," said committee chair Sen. Edgardo Angara in a statement.

Angara also maintained the committee has already "firmed up its schedule for the short term and this does not include debates on Charter change."

"We cannot afford to rush or short-cut the process," said Angara, underscoring that "Cha-cha means altering the fundamental law of the land."

Angara noted that the committee was more inclined toward first finishing the debates on the proposed absentee voting law, which is in its final phase of being passed.

Three congressmen who favor Charter change, however, said they prefer a unicameral legislature although they differed on what form the new government should take.

Representatives Raul Gonzalez of Iloilo City, Arthur Defensor of Iloilo's third district and Rolex Suplico of the fifth district said a unicameral legislature would be more efficient in making laws than the present bicameral setup. ***With Raj Padilla, PDI Visayas Bureau***

We supply Best...Hand Pallet Hydraulic Stacker
2Tons
3Tons
Heavy Duty for Factory Use...
1 year Guarantee
☑ BRAND NEW ☑ HEAVY DUTY ☑ SPARE PARTS ☑ SERVICE
MEGA PALLET CALL: ☎ 841-0646

SUMMER SPREE
A GRADUATION BLOWOUT
☑ SHABU SHABU ☑ KUGON ☑ RESIDENCE INN TAGAYTAY GOOD FOR 10 PAX ONLY! P1,999
VACATION PACKAGE
- OVERNIGHT STAY FOR 2 RES. INN & REGINES LPL
- FREE GIFT CERTIFICATES SHABU SHABU & KUGON
- FREE SMART CARE PLAN
P3,999
B FLY TO HONGKONG
ONLY! $335 4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS UP TO APRIL 27 ONLY!
BANGKOK UP TO MAY 3 ONLY 5 DAYS & 4 NIGHTS W/ (1) FREE OVERNIGHT @ RES. INN / REGINES ✓FREE GIFT CERTIFICATES SHABU SHABU & KUGON $289
EXCLUDING TAXES
C SEMINAR PACKAGE
CLARK BLU BIANCO P950/PAX MINIMUM OF 20
☑ ROOM ACCMDT'N
☑ INCLUSIVE OF: 3 MEALS & 2 SNACKS
☑ SEMINAR ACCMDT'N
☑ DUTY FREE SHOPPING
FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATION CALL: 899-9824 /21/20 ; 899-9595 loc. 350, 354
BY: DOLLAR RENT-A-CAR/ RES. INN/ ULTRA LASER • www.residenceinnresorts.com

Tour Packages... tour with us and see the difference!
"Let those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee." Psalms 40:16
ASIAN PACKAGES
HONG KONG 4D/3N $305
BANGKOK 4D/3N $260
SINGAPORE 4D/3N $320
MACAU 4D/3N $295
SAIGON 3D/2N $330
KUALA LUMPUR 4D/3N $460
SPECIAL PACKAGES
Singapore + Malaysia + Indonesia 4D/3N $375
Singapore + Kuala Lumpur 4D/3N $435
Bangkok + Pattaya 4D/3N $285

TICKET ONLY					
Hong Kong	$245	Seoul	$405	New York	$975
Bangkok	$235	Sydney	$685	Vancouver	$855
Singapore	$290	Tokyo	$482	Toronto	$965
Taipei	$345	LAX/SFO	$865	Europe	$790

FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS
Rm. 202 Della Mercedes Bldg., San Andres St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 400-5017 • 404-2043 • 536-9390
Telefax: 536-9390 Cell No.: 0917-3832142
E-mail Address: flight1@info.com.ph

PC BODEGA 12A Doña Juana Rodriguez New Manila Q.C 721-4482 / 721-4682 / 724-7905 / 724-7819
Now we have two more outlets to serve you !!!
PC DEPOT Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall 682-8618 / 682-8619 Viramall Shopping Center 725-8519 / 725-8792
Guaranteed Best Price & All Brand New Components !!!
P4 INTIMIDATOR ▶▶Pentium 4 1.6 GHz 128MB MEMORY, 40GB HDD 5400rpm, Built-In 32MB Savage Pro, 32bit Audio, 52X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase 14" Monitor, 56K Modem 500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" 24,800
PCB ELECTRON ▶▶AMD Duron 1 GHz 128MB MEMORY, Video Accelerator 40GB HDD 5400rpm, 32bit Audio, 52X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase 14" Monitor, 56K Modem 500W AVR, 180W SPKer "NETWORK READY" 18,800
PCB SMALL OFFICE ▶▶Celeron 950 MHz 128MB MEMORY, Video Accelerator 40GB HDD 5400rpm, 32bit Audio, 52X CD-Drive, 1.44MB FDD, ATXCase 14" Monitor, 56K Modem 500W AVR, 180W SPKer "INTERNET READY" 18,000
More PC Packages are available and also available in Black Color
The Best CD-Drive Ever! SONY 24x10x40 CDRW–7,000 16x48x DVD–3,350
SEAGATE HARDISK 40GB 5400rpm – 3,800 7200rpm – 4,800
MAG Monitor 17" 770FS–6,800 15" XJ558–4,400
www.pcbodega.com.ph ◀ Order Online !!!

JOIN! YARING PINOY "atin ito" BAZAAR MAY 1-31, 2002
CONCESSIONAIRES & SUPPLIERS ARE WELCOME!
CITIBYKE plus™ HOME OF QUALITY SCOOTERS & MOTORCYCLES
EQUIPPED W/ ANTI THEFT DEVICE REMOTE CONTROL (110cc ONLY!)
SALE
FREE! REGISTRATION HELMET (ON SELECTED ITEMS)
2/F SAVERS SQUARE MALL EDSA EXT. TAFT AVE., PASAY CITY
☎ 899-9595 loc. 339, 352, 386 ; 899-98 20 FAX: 899-9809

Make your house SAFE & look "LIVED-IN" even with no one around
ENERGY SAVING LIGHT WITH AUTOMATIC SENSOR
SAVE up to 80% on your power bill
- 2 intergrated photo sensors (LDR) switches on automatically at night and off automatically at day break
- With twilight switching adjustment control
- 12,000 burn hours
- Warm white
75 = 15
SECURITY, SAVINGS & CONVENIENCE
Exclusive distributor EMICOR INC.
236 Roosevelt Ave., SFDM, Quezon City
Tel. #: 372-3001 to 05, 415-1680 to 84
Fax#: 372-2101 emicor@philonline.com
STEINEL MADE IN GERMANY
36 months FUNCTIONAL WARRANTY

EXPLORE MACAU HOLIDAYS
5D4N · 4D3N TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS DEPARTURE
VIETNAM 8D7N PACKAGE
11 DAYS HUANGSHAN YANGTZE RIVER CRUISE
12 DAYS BEIJING · XIAN · SHANGHAI · HANGZHOU GUILIN ·
XIAMEN CHINA TOUR ON WEEKLY DEPARTURE
7D6N BANGKOK CHIVASOM PACKAGE
PLEASURE TRIP TO ORLANDO DISNEYLAND · LAS VEGAS · HONGKONG · SINGAPORE · TAIPEI · KOREA · BANGKOK · BALI · AUSTRALIA · NEW ZEALAND & INTERNATIONAL CRUISES
VALUE PACKED EUROPEAN HOLIDAY PACKAGES
LOCAL TOURS AVAILABLE
IATA – PTAA MEMBER LICENSE : TO 17598
GREAT WALL INT'L TRAVEL INC.
2420725 · 2422526 · 2422221
2422214 · 2422522
FAX: 2422529 · E-MAIL, GREATWALL@ABACUS.COM.PH

BECOME A CERTIFIED
MONTESSORI TEACHER
Montessori Teacher Preparation of the U.S. In the Philippines
A Montessori Teacher Preparation of the Montessori Institute of America (MIA) recognized by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education in the U.S. (MACTE in the U.S.) is now accepting participants for its training program.
On-site training course commences on April 22, 2002 to be conducted by current MIA President, Sharlet McClurkin (& Co.), Director of Montessorri Teacher Preparation of Washington for 22 yrs.
Training Inclusive of:
Phase I - academic (on-site training & 100 hrs. Videotape course/hands-on)
Phase II internship
Phase III application for MIA/Montessori Teacher Certification
We also offer, Montessori Bell Music Workshop, April 27, 2002
A 6-hour presentation of the Montessori bells & children's songs.
Limited seats only. Reserve a slot today!
For inquiries, pls. contact Christine at
Tels.: 4213647 • 4371914 • 4370530, Mon-Sat, 9 am to 5 pm

SOLAR
WIND
SOLAR ELECTRIC COMPANY INC. 1976
ENERGY
If it's harnessing solar and wind energy, call the experts since 1976!
MANILA OFFICE
Unit 1501 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza
11 Annapolis St., Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. nos.: (632) 724-4812 & 726-4322
Fax: (632) 724-0223
e-mail: solar@compass.com.ph
ILOILO OFFICE
Lopez Arcade
E. Lopez St., Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. nos.: (033) 320-0368 & 508-3134
Fax: (033) 320-0368
e-mail: solar@skyinet.net
Visit our website: www.compass.com.ph/~solar

Look Young. Feel Young.
Rediscover Your Face Beneath the Wrinkles and Fine Lines

Advanced Lasertone
With biostimulation for increased collagen and elastin production, it dramatically improves skin texture, increases lymphatic flow, strengthens tissues, virtually erases wrinkles and fine lines restoring the skin's youthful radiance. Right after the first treatment, skin is visibly refined, younger-looking.
Experience this advanced skin anti-ageing solution.
Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial Care Centre's
Skin Awareness Month
Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens
NEW LOCATION

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1259	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	243-8138/39	920-7938	961-3404/08	233-7631
815-3121 / 815-3123	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	243-8602 / 243-9895	920-7992 / 920-8064	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
GT Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St.	631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	City Plaza Tower, Plaza del Conde St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.
MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

Pinoy lost at sea

SINGAPORE—Two men were lost at sea after a tugboat, a barge and a small work boat collided in Singapore waters, the Marine and Port Authority said Monday. The men are believed to be dead.

Local news reports said the men were from Singapore and the Philippines. Coast Guard officials and police said they could not comment on the reports or provide other details.

The work boat Noella sank with two people aboard on Sunday morning, the Marine and Port Authority of Singapore said in a news release. Simon Ang, a spokesperson from the port authority, said further details about the incident would be provided later Monday. *AP*

Abu destruction is Gloria's priority

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she has ordered the military to set down as its main priority the destruction of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and not the rescue of their three hostages.

"The target is the Abu Sayyaf group, not the kidnap victims," Ms Macapagal said during her weekly radio interview.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding hostage American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap in the jungles of Basilan.

Ms Macapagal said she had issued the same directive to the Philippine National Police, when she designated the PNP to take the lead role in going after the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group that abducted Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni last year.

Pierantoni was recovered by the police early yesterday morning near Tungawan town in the new province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

"What I did with Pierantoni was that I did not set deadlines," the President said. "I told them (the PNP) not to make the priest's rescue as their specific target and instead get the kidnappers first."

Pierantoni was recovered "in the process," she said.

"In other words, the target is not the kidnap victim but the kidnappers," she said. "That's also my instruction with respect to the ASG."

The Armed Forces has deployed at least 5,000 soldiers in Basilan in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf.

In the same radio interview, Ms Macapagal said she was "open" to the idea of holding a second joint military exercise with the United States in Basilan, the site of the ongoing Balikatan 02-01.

Some 160 American Green Berets have joined frontline government troops hunting down the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The President said that a second exercise, if it is at all, would be dominated by the "civic action component" and specifically directed at the building of a circumferential road for Basilan.

Basilan residents have been clamoring for such a road, whose construction has been impeded by lack of equipment, Ms Macapagal said.

"So if (the United States were to) propose a second Balikatan in Basilan, I'm open to the suggestion," she said.

The President earlier said the ongoing Balikatan has given the AFP enhanced intelligence capabilities, particularly in locating the Abu Sayyaf main force, because of the sophisticated US surveillance equipment. ***Carlito Pablo***

Mayor's house raided in hunt for Abu chief

ISABELA CITY—The mayor of Tuburan town in Basilan said he would file charges of human rights violations against the military after his residence was raided yesterday by soldiers pursuing Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya.

Soldiers from the 18th Infantry Battalion, acting on information that the mayor was hiding Abu Sabaya in his residence, raided the house of Mayor Dore Kalahal in Barangay Mapatag in Lamitan early yesterday morning, Supt. Bensali Jabarani, the provincial police chief, said.

The elusive Sabaya escaped the dragnet but one alleged Abu Sayyaf member, identified as Mudri Musa, was wounded, a military report said.

Kalahal, who with Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar went to the 18th B headquarters to protest the raid, said the wounded man was one of his security people.

"If you can find Sabaya in Kalahal's house, I will resign right away," Akbar told 18th B commander Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

Safehouse

The military report said that Kalahal's house had been classified as a suspected Abu Sayyaf safehouse.

In another allegedly mistaken military operation, Lantawan Mayor Tahira Ismael claimed Marines had killed three civilians, not Abu Sayyaf bandits, in a reported encounter on April 3 on Dasalan island off Basilan.

Ismael identified the victims as Imam Santa Sala, 60; his wife Salama Ambang, 58; and Isnawi Ingagal, 38. The three were all residents of Dasalan.

"Your men killed innocent civilians, and you have the nerve to declare they are Abu Sayyaf!" Ismael told Col. Renato Miranda, chief of the 2nd Marine Brigade, during a Crisis Management Committee meeting in Isabela City on Sunday.

On April 4, Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, spokesperson of the Southern Command, announced that the military had killed three members of Abu Sabaya's group during a raid on Dasalan island with the help of crucial intelligence provided by the United States spy planes.

He also claimed that government troopers also recovered abandoned firearms in Dasalan.

Search warrant

In the Tuburan incident, Kalahal said he and his family were asleep when 20 soldiers entered his house and demanded "to see me to show me the search warrant."

He said that the raiders started firing when he went down the stairs. He said he was lucky to have escaped.

Kalahal said the soldiers allegedly took with them personal belongings and P5,000 in cash.

Jabarani said the soldiers recovered 20 empty shells from an M16 rifle but Kalahal said his men did not fire back.

Lucero defended the raid as a legitimate operation, and claimed that a Judge Danilo Bucoy had issued a search warrant based on information obtained from a military asset that Sabaya was reportedly hiding in Kalahal's house.

But Akbar claimed that Bucoy had denied issuing a search warrant. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from Martin P. Marfil, Metro Manila***

Blast turns wedding into bloody party

COTABATO CITY—Six persons were wounded, three of them seriously, when a homemade bomb exploded during wedding rites uniting two influential Muslim clans here yesterday.

The blast occurred at 10 a.m. in a parking area in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao compound here while the wedding of the son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan to the daughter of former mayor Michael Sinsuat of Upi, Maguindanao, was taking place.

"The wedding proceeded as scheduled," said Senior Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, city police chief.

Dampac identified the victims as M/Sgt Noel Bello, 40; Sgt. Jimmy Gaya, 35, and Pfc. Raymund Jopson, 35, all of the 57th Infantry Battalion; Cpl. Pedro Aggong, 31, of Task Force Cotabato and two unidentified civilians.

The soldiers were on guard outside the cultural center for the wedding.

The bomb caused only minor damage. No one claimed responsibility and a police investigation was underway, Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division, told the Associated Press.

Ampatuan is a known critic of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a Muslim separatist group currently engaged in peace talks with the government.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denied the group was behind the explosion.

The Hofer Ampatuan-Bai Ingrid Sinsuat wedding was held at the Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Center with political and military leaders, including Sen. Robert Barbers, in attendance.

Dampac said bomb experts had "sanitized" the compound on the eve of the wedding.

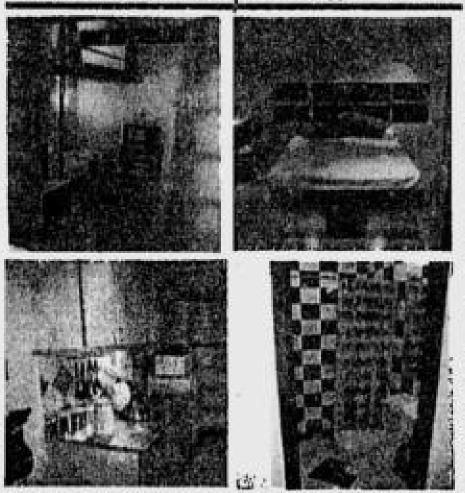
"We don't know how the suspect managed to plant the explosive," he told Radio dxMS.

The bomb was a 60-mm mortar shell fitted with a timing device and trigger mechanism. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with an AP report***

HOT Summer DEALS
2001 Ford Lynx
OLD PRICE
only at Ford Quezon Ave.
Apo St. cor. Quezon Ave Q.C. Near Welcome Rotonda. Besides Burger King
7312617 7323941 7323943 7323961
SHOWROOM OPEN ON SUNDAYS
FEW UNITS LEFT

PulmoMist
Handheld Ultrasonic Nebulizer
3-Yr. Warranty
Automatic Shut-off (in 10 mins.)
AC/DC Battery Operated for home and car use
Rechargeable Battery (optional)
your efficient choice and practical application in aerosol delivery for
ASTHMA
BRONCHITIS
EMPHYSEMA
PULMONARY INFECTIONS
COPD and other
RESPIRATORY DISORDERS
Relief in 6 mins.
P 3,700 until supply lasts
masks, mouthpiece and medicine cups are available
Manufactured for and Exclusively Distributed by:
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels.: 631-1715 * 631-9355 * 637-9504 * Fax (632) 631-7069
e-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph
Available in mercury drug Stores Nationwide
Manila 711-8374 | Cebu (032) 254-2367 | Davao (082) 222-4404 | Iloilo (033) 320-1413 | Lipa (043) 757-2051 | Pampanga (045) 961-7892

CCTV & PABX SYSTEM
B&W DOME CAMERA P3,800
NTT MCU 308 Recondition P3,000 ONLY
BRAND NEW KEY PHONE P2,800
CCTV P15,000 PACKAGE
MONITOR
MYTHOS
Available Brand New PANASONIC PABX
LNS LINK NETWORK SERVICES
632-2008 / 632-2019
718-2233 FAX:632-2015



WHY RENT AT P11T WHEN U CAN OWN AT P8.3T/MO.15YRS., DP 30% IN 1 YR.
VISIT MODEL UNIT NR. ROXAS BLVD. & EDSA
CLOSE TO HERITAGE & HYATT HOTEL
1BDR - P13T/MO. P15YRS.
2 BDRS - P19T/MO. 15YRS.
GOLDWELL PROPERTIES
5517902, 8337093, 8346840/41

Cut this Ad worth 1 FREE YoYo Balloon Coffee Mug
BALLOON BUSINESS!
WORKSHOP SKED.: EVERY WED. or SAT.
RESERVATION REQUIRED
WITH FREE 2 YOYO BALLOONS!
C.B.E. YoYo Balloons (Located at: SM Supermalls)
ENTRANCE DECOR
ONLY P22,500.00 INITIAL CAPITAL AND YOU CAN START YOUR OWN BALLOON BUSINESS RIGHT AWAY!
INCLUDES:
Starter Kit: 1,000 + Imported U.S. Balloons (Different Sizes, Colors & Shapes)
Balloon Pumps, (BIG AND SMALL)
Balloon Printing Set
Balloon Sticks and Cups, Clip Sticks
Giant Balloon Drop Bags w/ Balloons
Training Workshop Conducted by U.S. Trained Balloon Experts
Certificate, Free Lunch and Snack
Pictures, Brochures and more
Practicum at 5 Star Hotel or other venues
OPTIONAL: Imported Electric Inflator P7,500.00 each
SALE! 11" Rnd. U.S.A PRL. Balloons (P4.50 each) 5" Rnd. U.S.A STD. Balloons (P1.95 each)
WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW WITH OUR FREE WORKSHOP!
SUBMIT THIS AD WHEN YOU PAY AND WE WILL GIVE YOU FREE 1 YOYO BALLOON COFFEE MUG.
Call or Visit: YOYO BALLOONS 10-D Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 922-8543 • 426-2973 • 920-1440 • Fax No.: 922-0088
YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN TRADE NAME! NO NEED TO PAY ANY FRANCHISE FEE!
VALID UNTIL 27 APRIL 2002
THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY

SURPLUS AIRCON MADE IN JAPAN
P 30,000 SKYAIR (w/ remote) 5 TONS
P 35,000 CEILING (w/ remote) 5 TONS
PACKAGE TYPE AIRCON
• 3 TONS - P25,000
• 5 TONS - P35,000
• 71/2 TONS - P50,000
• 10 TONS - P70,000
• 15 TONS - P90,000
• 20 TONS - P130,000
We also carry Brand New HITACHI AIR CONDITIONER with 5 yrs. warranty on compressor.
NEW CONTAINER WILL ARRIVE ON APRIL 10
PACKAGE TYPE AIRCON 3 TONS 5 TONS, 7.5 TONS 10 TONS, 15 TONS & 20 TONS
P 2,500 STAND TYPE
UPRIGHT FREEZER
Best in Quality!
Best in Service!
Best in Expertise!
We have ample technical expertise personnel to assist you in testing any unit before you buy. Satisfaction guaranteed.
P 5,000 SPLIT TYPE
WHOLESALERS & RETAILERS WELCOME!
OYAMA COOLTRONICS CORPORATION
• BBB Commercial Complex, 202 A & B McArthur Highway, Karuhatan, Valenzuela City Tels.: 293-1432 • 443-6032
• 271 EDSA, Caloocan City Tels.: 367-6521 • 367-6522
AVAILABLE: • SALES • SERVICES • REPAIRS • WARRANTY • INSTALLATIONS

MITSUBISHI COLOR FILM
CATCH D CRAZE!
Feb.15 - May 15,2002
Buy MITSUBISHI color film & get 2 Mitsubishi Heavy duty batteries FREE!
P99.00 MX 135 36 exp. ASA 400
P89.00 MX 135 36 exp. ASA 200
P79.00 MX 135 24 exp. ASA 200
Made in Japan
AVAILABLE AT
PHOTOLINE SM OUTLETS: SM CITY BACOOR • SM MANILA • ROBINSON OUTLETS: ROBINSON'S IMUS • ROBINSON'S BACOLOD • ROBINSON'S CEBU • ROBINSON NOVALICHES ROBINSON'S GALLERIA • ROBINSON ERMITA • METRO EAST ROBINSON'S STA LUCIA RUSTAN'S • HARRISON PLAZA • EVER OUTLETS: EVER KALOOCAN SUPERMARKET EVER RECTO • EVER COMMONWEALTH • DEPARTMENT STORE • GRAND CENTRAL SUPERMARKET & DEPARTMENT STORE • FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL • RIVERBANKS MALL • SHOPWISE • FESTIVAL MALL • FIESTA WORLD MALL • CSI-DAGUPAN CITY
& ALL MITSUBISHI 1-HOUR PHOTO CENTERS-NATIONWIDE

USQ AUSTRALIA
FOR BOTH ON-CAMPUS AND DISTANCE EDUCATION
www.usq.edu.au/international
international@usq.edu.au
Good Universities Guides
University of the Year 2000-2001
Joint winner • Developing the e-university
FREE SEMINAR
on the University of Southern Queensland
Date: 12 April 2002 • Time: 7 pm to 9 pm
Venue: Dusit Hotel Nikko • Mulawin Room
Ayala Center • 1233 Makati City, Manila
FREE INTERVIEW PROGRAM
Dates: 13 & 14 April 2002 • Time: 10 am
Venue: IDP Education Australia
G/F Salustiana D Ty Tower
104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village
Makati City, Manila
Voted World's Best Dual Mode University by the International Council for Distance Education
02-202 ADV042
FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact:
IDP Education Australia
Phone: 816 0755; 754 6281 / 6277 / 6229 / 6230
Fax: 815 9875 • Email: info@manila.idp.edu.au
USQ CRICOS Code 00244B
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHER QUEENSLAND Toowoomba I Queensland I 4350 I AUSTRALIA

Gloria tells retired Army chief to shut up

RETIRED Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos got a sharp rebuke from President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

She told him to stop lambasting Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu for allegedly being an unpopular choice as next AFP chief of staff.

"Maybe Jimmy is not aware that when I appointed him (as Army chief) there was a lot of resistance against him. But once I've appointed him, he was accepted. That's how the military culture works," she said in her weekly radio program yesterday.

"So I wish he would stop criticizing (Cimatu) because he himself is a beneficiary of my political will," she added.

Cimatu is seen as one of the top contenders to replace AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, who retires on May 20.

But he is also set to retire on July 4, so unless the President extends his term, he will be chief of staff for less than two months.

De los Santos, who retired last week, claimed many officers did not approve of Cimatu's appointment and extension.

He said the extension of retiring generals was one of the main reasons why junior officers turned against former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Begin a new life

Cure your bad breath

No need to consult with medical experts. The cause of bad breath has been diagnosed and pinpointed.

Therabreath™ System is the solution to the problem. It is guaranteed to cure *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, awful morning breath.*

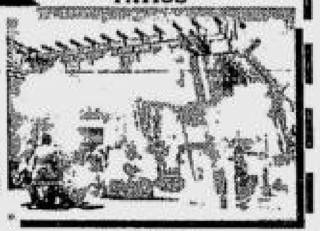
Free Delivery w/in Metro Mla.- Moneyback Guarantee

Call: Norville Fresh Breatheraphy Center
890-8380; 895-5532; 895-6775

GAZEBOS

COOL MIST FAN

PATIOS


TRELLIS

OUTDOOR COOLING SYSTEMS

Cools Outdoor Temperatures up to 30° F.

Enjoy a very cool and refreshing super fine mist without getting wet.

TRULY AIRCONDITION-LIKE FEELING!

For inquiries & free estimates, call now:

COOL MIST INTERNATIONAL
Tel. Nos.: 920-8109 / 716-6161 Fax: 920-8109

SALES - RENTALS
SERVICES AVAILABLE

JAVA HTML
SQL XML JA
PERL CGI FL
FLASH JSCRIP
PHOTOSHOP
PERL CGI FL
BE A CERTIFIED WEB MASTER In only 300 Hrs.!!!

Web Professionals Command fat paychecks

And they get paid big time
For doing something that they enjoy.

But there is never enough qualified Web Programmers to meet the ever increasing demand around the world.

This is opportunity knocking on your door.

1st Web Academy can help you become
A Genuine Web Master *in 300 Hours.*

At 1st Web Academy, learn all that you'll need in the shortest possible time (JAVA Script, JAVA HTML, SQL, XML, PERL, CGI, Flash etc.)

And when you're done, 1st Web Academy's Job Placement Dept. will assist deserving graduates in their job hunting activities both here and abroad.

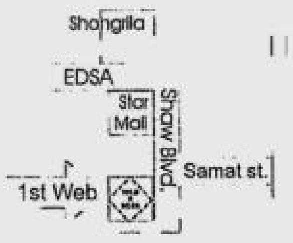
So, whatever profession you are in, ask us about the following *easy-to-learn* modules we've created specifically for professionals who wants to make that *enjoyable* and *rewarding* **career move:**

- IT Starter
- Web Design Aesthetics
- Web Administration
- Web Programming
- Web Security Management
- E-commerce Management
- Website Project Management

Get in touch with us:

WEB @ WORK
1st Web Academy
urWeb@work.co.inc

Conservatory Building
605 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Tel: 718-2270 / 718-2271 / 718-2272
718-2273 / 718-2274
Fax: 721-9603
http://webacademy.ph



Calling : LOT AND SUBDIVISION OWNERS!!!

WE OFFER TOP-QUALITY PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF YOUR PROJECTS AT VERY REASONABLE COST

HIGH-CLASS HOMES • COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS
TOWNHOUSES • CONDOMINIUMS • APARTMENTS
ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL PLANS

TO BUILDING OWNERS, WE ALSO :

- RENOVATE, REMODEL YOUR EXISTING BUILDING
- IMPROVE YOUR EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR DESIGN
- UNDERTAKE GENERAL PAINTING WORKS

Call/visit : **F.H.CLAVE CONSTRUCTION**
22 NEPAL ST., BETTER LIVING SUBD., PARANAQUE CITY
TEL. # 822-8119 • 823-5837 • 787-0960
Cellphone 0918-918-6520 • Fax (632) 823-5837
Pager 141946550 • Email : clave@skyinet.net

Design & estimate Consultant : VICENTE A. TAGAYUN, PIA
Author of the popular book: "ESTIMATING BILL OF MATERIALS"

BATHROOM PACKAGE
₱2,400.00 Only

CERAMIC PLAZA

THE MOST TILES AT THE BEST PRICES

EUROTILES
SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
₱6.80* 20 cm x 20 cm (8"x 8")
₱15.50* 30 cm x 30 cm (12"x 12")
*METRO MANILA PRICE

OPEN TODAY

METRO MANILA BRANCHES

MANILA 1562 J. Abad Santos Ave. [illegible]
QUEZON AVENUE [illegible] 731-1260
PASAY 811 EDSA Tels 833-5510 • 834-7637
SUCAT [illegible] Dr. A. Santos Ave. [illegible]
MUNTINLUPA [illegible]
ANTIPOLO [illegible] Marcos Highway, Rizal [illegible]
VALENZUELA [illegible] McArthur Hi-way [illegible]

PROVINCIAL BRANCHES

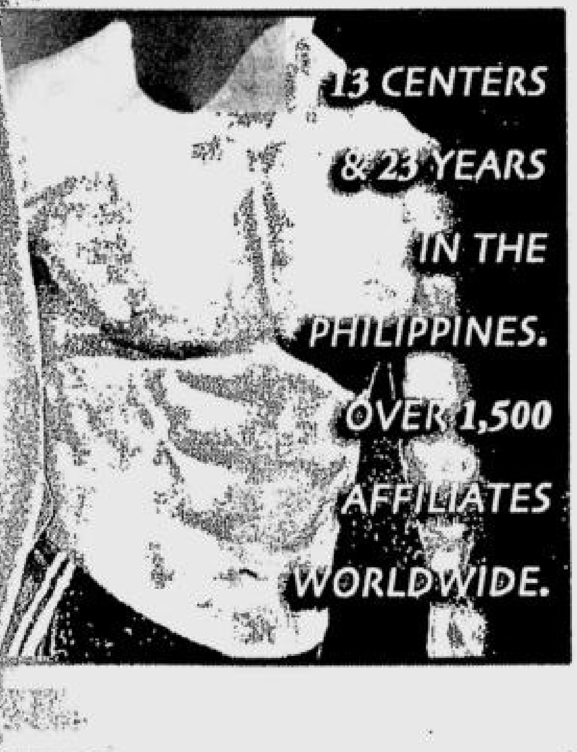
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE Km. 27 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite [illegible]
CARMONA [illegible] National Highway, Carmona, Cavite [illegible]
MEYCAUAYAN JP Hermoso Bldg., McArthur Hi-way, Bo. Banga [illegible]
BALIUAG DRT Hi-way, [illegible]
GUIGUINTO [illegible] Tuktukan [illegible]
ANGELES [illegible] Henson St. [illegible]
TARLAC San Sebastian, McArthur Hi-way [illegible]

EXTENDED STORE HOURS!! 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM DAILY.

ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS [illegible] Lot 7, Alabang Zapote Rd., Bgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City Tels. 801-7152 • 800-7131 800-7132 • 800-7134
E. RODRIGUEZ 113 E. Rodriguez Avenue, (Near G. Araneta Ave.) Quezon City Tel. 732-1800
MUÑOZ 1207 EDSA, Q.C. Tels. 372-4887 372-1693 • 372-8010 • 372-8011

CERAMIC PLAZA at Federal HARDWARE BUILDER'S CENTER
*OPEN 8:30AM TO 7:30PM DAILY

*FEDERAL HARDWARE MAKATI 2250 Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo), Makati City Tel. 893-1051
*FEDERAL HARDWARE CAINTA No. 9 Imelda Ave. (Near MANRO), Cainta, Rizal • Tel. 678-1638
*FEDERAL HARDWARE TAYTAY [illegible] Taytay, Rizal Tels. [illegible]
FEDERAL HARDWARE BACOOR, CAVITE [illegible] Bacoor, Cavite Tel. (046) 870-2598
FEDERAL HARDWARE IMUS, CAVITE 370 NR Aguinaldo Highway (Near Robinsons) [illegible] Imus, Cavite Tel. (046) 875-4840
FEDERAL HARDWARE ANGELES 603 & 571 McArthur Highway, Sto. Domingo Angeles City Tel. (045) 888-4185



Milk Bath for smooth, white skin.

SLIMMERS WORLD

HOTLINE 887-3533

GREAT BODIES.

PAY P39 PER VISIT on FIT-FOR-LIFE Full Programmes

13 CENTERS & 23 YEARS IN THE PHILIPPINES. OVER 1,500 AFFILIATES WORLDWIDE.

SAVE UP TO P21,765

NO JOINING FEES! NO MONTHLY DUES! NO HIDDEN CHARGES.

4 SUPER CENTERS OPENING SOON!
PASAY ROAD NOW OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT.

PRICES SLASHED! starting @P368 PER TREATMENT ON FULL PROGRAMMES

Beautiful Skin.
FREE CONSULTATION
with our In-House Dermatologist
Pay only P1,000 to start.
First 25 this week.
HOTLINE 887-3530

CALL US:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.slimmersworld.com.ph or EMAIL US: inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI VILL.	MALATE	SM MEGAMALL	PASAY ROAD	PASIG	SALCEDO VILL.	SM NORTH	SUBIC
Gemma/Raffi	Herlie/Madel	Sherry	Hazel	Tinka	Jaja	Grace/Tin	Michelle	Camille/Nina	Lorie/JM	Shiela/Jeff	Veron/Ruth	Ruza
2nd Flr. RCBC Bldg.	3/F Regina Garden II	6/F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Basement 1&2 Ayala Center	27/F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis	G/F Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St.	6/F Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St.	2/F Bldg. A Mandaluyong	1032 Arnaiz Avenue, cor. EDSA	Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-way	27/F Trafalgar Dela Costa St.	2/F Annex Bldg. Quezon City	2/F Times Square Rizal Hi-way
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	814-0138	929-5429	252-6514

Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 120
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
- Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
- P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
- Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
- Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
- Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

100% soy ink

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
Assistant News Editor **Nilo B. Paurom**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Deskperson **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

A peso versus poverty

EDITORIALS

THAT was a heartwarming story the INQUIRER had yesterday: 40 employees of the National Economic Development Authority in Central Luzon are contributing the little that they can so that two poor pupils would have their daily allowance and continue to go to school.

Tens of thousands of children of poor families all over the country cannot go to school not because they can't pay the tuition—schooling in public schools is free—but because they don't have the money for transport and meals. Abigail Dychitan and Alice Dimabuyu of Pampanga are typical of the poor students who are forced to drop out of school because their parents are too poor to give them a daily allowance.

Their plight came to the attention of the school principal, Romeo Matic, who did something to remedy the situation. Matic asked the employees of the Neda in Central Luzon to contribute something so that the two pupils could continue their schooling. The Neda employees immediately responded, donating about P1 a day to raise the P400 monthly allowance for each girl.

The idea caught fire, and now the Central Luzon Association of Regional Officers, which counts with 50 agencies, is carrying out a bigger project called "Baon para kay Bunso." Rene Romero, vice chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries for North Luzon, learned about the fund campaign and immediately donated P20,000. We find it ridiculous, however, that the association members used the P20,000 to make wooden donation boxes instead of distributing it to needy pupils. But we hope other businessmen will contribute to the fund so that more poor students can continue their schooling.

The Neda employees' example shows that one does not have to give much or sacrifice much to be able to help a needy fellowman. The Neda employees only had to give up the pastime of sending jokes through text messaging to be able to save a peso a day for the two girls. That's not too much of a sacrifice, is it? But it means the difference between a girl having money for the daily ride to her school or dropping out. It means the difference between a poor pupil having something to eat while in school or fainting from hunger and getting sick.

The Neda employees' project points up the importance of education as a factor in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty. Think of the nationwide effect if the Neda employees' project could be replicated in other towns and cities. Tens of thousands of students who would otherwise drop out of school would be able to continue their schooling. And all it would take would be a few pesos and a small sacrifice on the part of the donors.

Active lifestyle

IN THE PAMPANGA story, it was a problem of two poor families not having enough money to give their daughters for transport and meals. In the greater part of the country, the growing problem is obesity, partly because of overeating and partly because of lack of exercise.

Some people would think it unbelievable that obesity would be a problem in a poor country like the Philippines where about 33 percent of the people live below the poverty threshold and have barely enough money for two meals a day. But according to officials of the World Health Organization and the Department of Health, obesity is "the biggest epidemic of our time." And the result, they said, is that two million people all over the world die every year of diseases that are linked with a sedentary lifestyle.

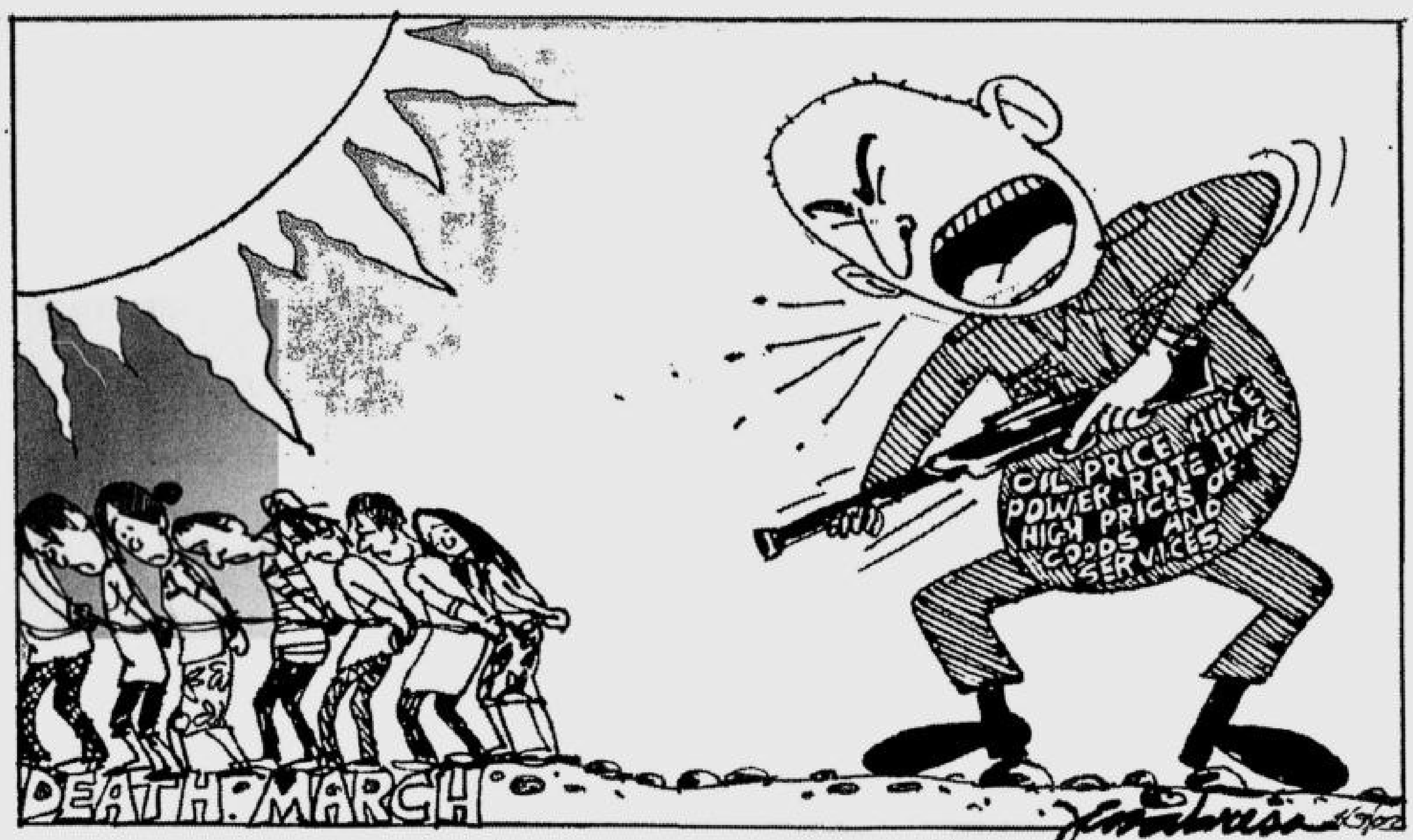
Officials of the WHO, the Department of Health and the University of the Philippines cited the following factors that cause obesity: desk-bound jobs, people riding in vehicles instead of walking, lack of parks and sports facilities, the cultural factor: sweating lowers a person's social standing, crowding, poverty, crime, traffic, air pollution and poor diet.

Individuals can correct the situation by leading a more active lifestyle. They can walk or ride a bicycle to negotiate short distances. They can use the stairs instead of the elevator.

Commercial and industrial companies can help make their employees more active and healthier if they provided them with sports and recreation facilities and subsidized activities like tae-bo classes.

The government can help promote a more active lifestyle by building more parks, playgrounds and sports facilities. And it can do something about the air pollution so that more joggers will be encouraged to run in public places again.

The ancient Romans said it well: *Mens sana in corpore sano* (A healthy mind in a healthy body). An active lifestyle makes for a healthy citizenry, and a healthy citizenry can work more effectively to build a progressive and prosperous nation.



Why is there a cement shortage?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II are making a big mistake if it is true that they are knuckling under the propaganda of the foreign cement cartel to impose a protective tariff on imported cement. Anybody who is not gullible or stupid can see the manipulation clear as a summer day. The cartel is creating a shortage to raise cement prices. It wants to limit importation and raise prices of imports via a tariff barrier so as not to ease the shortage and depress prices.

Roxas himself has confirmed the shortage which resulted in cement prices shooting up to P145 per 40-kg bag in spite of the promise of Philcemcor, the dummy of the foreign cartel, to keep prices between P125 and P135 per bag. Subdivision developers are complaining. They have to wait up to three days to get their deliveries. Delays in construction raise the cost of the dwellings. Low-cost housing projects will cease to be low-cost. They will be high-cost housing projects, thanks to the cement cartel.

Construction always surges in summer to take advantage of the rainless days. There is always a big demand for cement in summer. Everybody knows that. So why did the foreign-owned cement giants mothball 25 of their 37 kilns, leaving only 12 kilns to produce the needed cement? Obviously to create a shortage. When there is a shortage, prices inevitably rise.

But when there is a shortage, we should welcome imports, *'di ba*? Especially if they are cheaper. So why does Philcemcor want to put up tariff and non-tariff barriers against imports? Obviously to continue the shortage and raise prices even more. And why are Ms Macapagal and Roxas allowing this? Why are they falling for this manipulation? Are they blind? Don't they see what they're doing? Whatever happened to their commitment to free trade and competition?

What about the consumers? In protecting the cement giants, Ms Macapagal and Roxas are going to put Filipino consumers at the mercy of the cartel. When the supply is controlled and cement prices rise, don't they realize that the government itself will be a victim? Public works projects, which use plenty of cement, will cost more. Mass housing projects for the poor will no longer be affordable to them.

Why don't Philcemcor members operate some of the 25 mothballed kilns (of the total 37 kilns) to increase the supply and relieve the shortage? That will give more jobs to more people. But no, they're threatening to close more cement companies and lay off workers instead.

But that's the modus operandi of the cartel. It dumps its products in poor countries so the local cement companies will lose money. Then it buys out these companies. Once it is in control of the domestic market, it creates an artificial shortage and raise prices. That's what it did and is still doing in the Philippines. The cartel owns 12 of the 17 cement manufacturers operating 20 kilns all over the country. That's what it did in Brazil. Once it controlled the Brazilian cement industry, it raised prices. Cement prices in Brazil, a poor country, are even higher than the prices here. Yet the same cement is being sold very cheap by the cartel to rich countries like the United States.

That is what is going to happen to the Philippines if Ms Macapagal and Roxas don't wake up. Already our cement is being exported very cheap to the United States although consumers there can afford to pay more. The cartel is recovering its losses from Filipino consumers who cannot afford them.

The cartel is also dumping Philippine cement in Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan. That is why it has to raise prices here to recover losses there. But it wants the cement companies there to lose money so it can buy them out. It has already made overtures to Indonesian companies to buy them out. Its plan is to dominate the world production and market of cement. It wants to be the Opec of cement, a world cartel that can dictate prices and control supply at will.

Members of the cartel are already the three largest cement conglomerates in the world. Lafarge of France is now the world's biggest conglomerate after its acquisition of rival Blue Circle of the United Kingdom. Cemex of Mexico is the largest international cement trader. Prior to the acquisition by Lafarge of Blue Circle, Holcim of Switzerland was the world leader in cement production. They are already the world's biggest cement conglomerates but their greed knows no bounds. They want more. They want to control the world supply of cement. Today the Philippines, Brazil and other countries; tomorrow the world. And they're going to do it by swallowing up the smaller companies like they did here. Like what they're trying to do in Indonesia, Korea and Taiwan by dumping cheap cement there.

But these smaller companies are fighting back. They're giving the cartel a dose of its own medicine. So the three biggest cement conglomerates in the world have run to the poor, little Philippine government to ask for protection from the little Asian cement companies. It's like the big bullies running home to mama crying for help because some little kids in school are fighting back. Waaah!

And the gullible Mama Gloria and Papa Mar are putty in their hands. They wrap their puny arms around their big, muscle-bound shoulders to comfort the crying bullies.

"There, there, don't cry. Mama and Papa are here. They won't allow those little itty-bitty kids to hurt and scare you."

It's nauseating to hear that from real parents, isn't it? It is even more so when you hear it from the President and a Cabinet member of a supposedly independent nation.

Terrorism

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE always thought it was just a question of time before something happened to show up the folly of US President George W. Bush's division of the world into pro-terrorists and anti-terrorists, pro-America and anti-America, pro-him or anti-goodness. "You are either with me or you are for the terrorists," he put it at one point. Which President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, armed with the same hubris, echoed by saying, "You are either for American troops or you are Abu Sayyaf lovers."

I've always thought something would happen to refute that monumental delusion, but I never thought it would happen so soon. Or offer so complete a refutation. What has happened of course is the Israeli invasion of the West Bank, which has shown with startling clarity that the world is a little more complicated than Bush wants us to believe. Indeed, that it is not always easy to tell the hero from villain by the fact that one is wearing white and the other black.

The scenario at the start seemed almost like a carbon copy of America's war in Afghanistan. A series of suicide attacks on Israel, readily claimed by Palestinian extremists, gave Prime Minister Ariel Sharon all the excuse he needed to crush an age-old enemy. He promptly depicted Yasser Arafat as the Palestine's version of Osama bin Laden, someone who, despite his protestations to the contrary, was responsible for the proliferation of extremist groups in Palestine and their acts of terrorism against Israel. There could be no doubt what these groups did were acts of terrorism, one Israeli spokesperson said on CNN. A man set off a bomb in a market or restaurant, that was terrorism. A man flew a plane into a building or public square, that was terrorism. Arafat, he said, was ultimately to blame for them.

Just as Bush ordered fighter planes and tanks into Afghanistan to hunt down Bin Laden, Sharon ordered troops into Palestinian territory to hunt down Arafat. And indeed managed to lay siege on him in his headquarters in the West Bank. Echoing Bush's mantra, Sharon defended his hostile excursion by saying the war against terrorism was a war without borders. And further echoing Bush's assertion that an attack on another country was not an act of aggression but an act of defense, he defended his strikes against Palestine as defending the right of Israel to exist. Arafat, he said, was determined to obliterate his nation. What he was doing was preventing it.

He ordered his troops further up the West Bank, into Bethlehem, even threatening to attack at one point the Church of the Nativity, arguing that the Palestinian terrorists were holding the Franciscan friars there hostages. There was only one problem. The Franciscans themselves, particularly their spokesperson in the Holy Land, did not think so. "The friars are not hostages," Fr. David Jaeger said. "They are in their own house, in the precise place where they belong. It is impossible not to fear that the use of this term ("hostages") is meant to legitimize a perhaps imminent military assault (on the church)." Jaeger was not under the barrel of a gun when he said that, he was inside the corridors of the Vatican.

And then the world rose to protest.

Until that happened, Bush had been behind Sharon all the way. The scenario seemed perfect, a repeat of a successful formula. Indeed, on the very day Sharon's storm troopers descended on Arafat, Bush came out on TV to demand not that Israel withdraw its occupation force but that Arafat use his authority to compel the Palestinian extremist groups to stop committing terrorist acts. As a Palestinian spokesperson told CNN, how could Arafat do that from the bunker he had just been thrown into by the Israelis? Indeed, he said, how could Arafat, who was the voice of sobriety among a people driven to violence by Israeli repression in the occupied territories and commando raids on heavily populated Palestinian towns was himself being silenced by Sharon? Nothing Arafat said could be listened to at that point. His very plight added fuel to fire.

It was only when the world's capacity to suspend disbelief snapped that Bush began to backtrack and ask Sharon to pull back. Which, as of this writing, Sharon has completely ignored. You cannot let a pet tiger taste blood and rein it in. Either that, or Sharon knows how to read between the lines.

All this has brought back with a vengeance the same questions that were swept aside in the American war on Afghanistan, when the tears over the victims of the World Trade Center drowned out any criticism of that war's logic. Indeed, when Bin Laden provided the perfect villain for a Jerry Bruckheimer-type action movie. Those questions are: What is terrorism? Who are the terrorists? What moral authority do the people who have launched a crusade against terrorism have to lead it?

True enough, as someone told the BBC, when a Palestinian explodes a bomb in a public market, that is terrorism. But what do you call the massacre of hundreds of civilians by Israeli tanks and fighter planes—a surgical excision? True enough, Israel has the right to defend itself against acts of terrorism. But what do you call the rumbling of tanks and the buzzing of warplanes by one of the most powerful armies of the world (an incredible feat for a small nation, made possible by the United States, the world's No. 1 exporter of arms and most ardent supporter of Israel) in the heart of Palestine—an act of self-defense? True enough, the United States has a right to call states that threaten the peace and security of the world "rogues." But what would you call a government that backs the cataclysmic adventurism of a Sharon, and stops only when it backfires in world opinion?

Anti-terrorist?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

See the Philippines first

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DURING the President's birthday celebration in Malacañang last Friday evening, I asked Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon about what's cooking in his department. One has to really admire Gordon for his never-say-die spirit in promoting tourism in this country. He is gushing over the fact that since his spot ads in CNN and BBC came out promoting the Philippines as a tourist destination, the Department of Tourism website is now getting about 200,000 hits where it used to get only about 400 hits. He stressed that Malaysia, which has been actively advertising also in the international TV networks, spends about US$180 million a year on such promotions, compared to the DOT's minuscule budget. Imagine if I had even $10 million to play around with, says Gordon.

He admits that the Philippines has to line up to bag the foreign tourists and that we're far behind. For instance, he notes that European vacationists would prefer exotic islands closer to their continent, such as Seychelles and Maldives; failing that, they head for Thailand's beaches, and perhaps Malaysia's, and only if they don't go there would they end up in the Philippines. Which is really a pity, for as the foreigners themselves readily admit, our tourist spots could rival those of other countries around the region.

Gordon points out that conditions are being corrected with regard to luring the foreign tourists, including putting the Philippines on the map through international promotions, though as the media noted, the Abu Sayyaf crisis is not helping us any. In the meantime, the DOT chief is pushing domestic tourism. He is confident that the new four-day workweek for nearly 1.5 million government employees for April and May would provide the impetus for people to plan vacations, hometown visits and other leisure activities that would help perk up the economy and keep those tourist spots humming.

Gordon has prodded various travel agencies to band together and come up with tour packages for all over the country at rock-bottom prices. You readers must have seen the "Wow Philippines" ads with tour packages as low as P1,050, exhorting us, *"Huwag maging dayuhan sa sariling bayan."* I suggest that the umbrella group of Philtoa not only repeat those full-page newspaper ads, but also put up posters of these in strategic places. The Philippine Tourism Authority should also get into the action with its own ads, as there are people who want to go on their own, but don't know where to go and what conditions await them.

* * *

I asked Gordon what "Wow Philippines" means and the old cheerleader in him said it could mean anything, from "Wealth Of Wonders," to "Warm-Over Winter," "Wacko Over Wildlife," "Wonderfully Original Waterways" For divers it could mean "Wonder Over Wrecks" and for water-skiers it could be "Wild Over Water." Of course, because the beauty of our women precedes us, for gawkers and oglers it could be "Watch Over Women" too, he says with a smile.

He has also extended the "Wow Philippines" campaign to specific destinations, this time wooing well-known local personalities to spearhead it. For instance, the "Wow Cebu" campaign will feature Cebuana actress Vina Morales on the posters, while "Wow Batangas" will have no other than Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos; Sharon Cuneta will smile from the Palawan posters, while Richard and Lucy Gomez will lure them to Ormoc and Leyte. Davao's No. 1 promoter is former beauty queen Margie Moran-Floirendo.

* * *

Gordon would be on the right path if he ties up the local governments to his promotion campaign, and here he should coordinate with Interior Secretary Joey Lina. The local government executives ought to be convinced that tourism is the fastest way to bring in the big bucks and generate economic activity and employment. There should also be a lot of pride involved in promoting one's town or city. But the local executives should also be convinced that before the tourists descend on their areas they have to work hard to make them really tourist-friendly. Perhaps there could be regular awards from the DOT for the most tourist-friendly towns and cities, especially those that assure the safety of the tourists and provide clean public toilets.

Years ago, when my husband was still brigade commander in Laguna, I recall that Senators Nene Pimentel and Santanina Rasul held a conference in Pagsanjan with civil and military authorities on how to prevent some local boat operators from cheating and tormenting the tourists who go shooting the rapids in Pagsanjan. It was truly deplorable to see how these hoodlum cheats were laying to waste a very good tourist asset.

* * *

It seems that Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte is the tourist flavor of the season, as I keep hearing about it from everyone, including our longtime family friend, business executive Francis de Leon. They say it's like a more pristine Boracay. Over the many years my family and I have been touring the length and breadth of this county, including 25 days roaming all over Mindanao by land when my husband was Southcom chief in 1993-1994. I know from first-hand knowledge that we truly have a beautiful country, but I'm ashamed to admit I don't know the Ilocos region beyond Vigan. I do plan to visit Pagudpud this summer.

Of course there are all-time favorite destinations like Banaue, Sagada and Bontoc—if you haven't seen them yet, it's time. Catch the sunset, or the sunrise over the magnificent Banaue rice terraces. On the other hand, companies looking for a place to hold a conference or a whole-day outing should try Corregidor, where they have a three-star hotel run by the PTA as well as inns and a reasonably good beach, plus all the well-preserved war memorials. The firm headed by my husband held a two-day strategy conference in Corregidor and it was good because everyone was locked in and thus focused.

A story of clergy sexual abuse

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HE was 16 and a freshman in a Cebu university. He was beset by numerous problems—failing grades, the lack of financial support and a personal crisis to boot. Overcome by these difficulties, he attempted suicide, and when the school officials found out, they sent over a priest who also happened to be a psychologist to offer counseling.

"He came, telling me a lot of things most of which I couldn't understand because my head was spinning at the time," "N" writes. "He then said he wanted to see me in the chapel the next day at 2 p.m. I went to the chapel, where he was serving as the chaplain and he was there waiting. On seeing me, he said he had to prepare for Mass and needed to go up to his room in the fourth floor to change his clothes. He wanted me to accompany him there.

"So I went. He told me to sit on his bed and he started counseling me. He was making a lot of sense until I noticed that his hands were starting to roam, until they reached my private parts. I became confused and troubled and I couldn't understand what had happened. I went home in a daze, my mind blank. I felt like a dark cloud had fallen over me. But that was not the end of it."

At the end of the semester, "N" decided to tell another priest about what happened. But nothing came of it mainly because, "N" thinks, they needed to protect the school first. The priests did ask for his forgiveness, but "N" says he has chosen to forget much of what happened.

"All I wanted to tell you," continues "N," "is that to this day I still carry within me the pain of that experience. I feel violated and abused until now. I have also lost all faith and trust in the Church and in priests. I am now in my 30s but I still have nightmares about that incident. I feel like I'm burning in Hell.

"I hope you can write something that will give young men, especially students, the courage and inner strength to speak out against their abuse and fight for their rights."

Dear "N," I don't think I need to say much more beyond what you wrote, since your honesty and bravery already convey so much to young men battling the demons of sexual abuse. I think you've already proven the consequences of burying the experience of abuse under a blanket of denial and face-saving. What Filipino society, and the local Roman Catholic Church, need to do about the emerging scandals of pedophiles and sexual opportunists among the clergy is not to hush it up but to talk about it in the open, confront the reality, punish the guilty and protect and heal the innocent. Thank you, "N," for trusting me and our readers with your story.

* * *

ANOTHER reaction to the column on "pedophile priests" in the country comes from a foreign missionary who is due to retire soon after serving the country for 30 years.

"As a Roman Catholic Missionary Priest (I may just as well say: as a human being) I feel sad, humiliated and at times very angry at all reports of abuse, especially sexual abuse of children. It hurts even more if those crimes are committed by fellow priests. Those crimes should be stopped by every possible means, even if that means public exposure," writes "Fr. H."

But he warns that "(a) public exposé of the sinner by itself does not seem a virtue. As such it is understandable that one does not wash dirty linen in public. It is understandable that bishops try to cover up for priests, as you would cover up for your husband or daughter, I dare to guess. However, covering up and allowing the crime to continue is despicable."

"Fr. H," however, wants to also bring to light what he calls "shocking" observations about Filipino sexual mores.

"I noticed that Filipinos and Filipinas could never be alone, not even in the most private places like bathrooms and restrooms. Hardly anybody seemed to be 'sleeping' alone. Older men, including priests, often had a younger man or boy sleeping with them. Men were greeting each other by grabbing each other in the groin. Mothers would pinch their daughters playfully or in punishment between the legs.

"I have seen women in a circle, while telling the latest news, passing on a baby boy, each one sucking the penis of the little boy until the boy had an erection. All this was done in front of me, a priest, without a sense of shame. I could continue (with similar) stories. My question is: What is sexual abuse in the Philippines? In my native country one would frown (to put it mildly) on most of these happenings. I am sure that many (people) could be found guilty of sexual abuse and pedophilia, if judged by the standards used on some of the abusive priests in the USA."

* * *

WELL, "Fr. H," I have to say that, I too have noticed the peculiar physical "liberties" we Pinoys take with each other. I remember feeling only mildly amused when I read a "guide" for foreigners living in the Philippines about the tendency of Pinoy males to walk around holding hands. "This is just a sign of friendship and should not be mistaken as a sign of homosexuality," the writer helpfully offered. Your account of the penis-sucking circle of women comes as a bit of a shocker, though.

Still, there is definitely something wrong when a person enjoying moral authority and even a "holy" stature among people would abuse his position of trust for sexual gratification. It is not "washing dirty linen in public" to investigate charges of sexual abuse and take steps to protect other children from further abuse. It is standing by the truth and living by the word of God that "the truth shall set you free."

Adopt a lighthouse

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

THERE exists an office in the Department of Foreign Affairs called the Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center headed by Ambassador Alberto Encomienda, a fact that neither you nor I would ever have known had I not sat in one of their meetings, courtesy of the good ambassador. This office deals with maritime security and a host of related issues such as piracy, pollution from oil spills, safety of sea lanes, illegal fishing and security that are dependent on cooperation between the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

Maritime cooperation involves issues of crime, natural disasters, human depredations, management of resources in areas of overlapping claims and so on. Apparently there are deficiencies in government addressing maritime issues but that is outside the scope of this article and besides it's not as though you didn't know it.

What does interest us is that we were from way back (and perhaps still are) "a maritime and seafaring nation and an archipelago state," a fact that most of us are not particularly aware of, given that we don't have a maritime museum that we could point to with pride. Nor is travel around our islands, which would be the most practical way of seeing a country of islands, particularly well-developed or safe. Any reading of the writings of the Spanish friars lists numerous types of vessels used not only to navigate around but to wage war. Yet the average Filipino could probably cite only the banca and *vinta* as examples of native craft, unaware that there were other types like *cascos, joangas, balanghais, barotos, proas, caracoas, talisays, tapaques, taratanas* and *juncos* and so on. Certainly a maritime museum would be more educational and enlightening than another mall or shopping center, but that would be expecting too much.

In an article titled "Colonial lighthouses," (PDI, 1/14/95) we mentioned then Coast Guard Commodore Fajardo's idea of converting colonial lighthouses under the aegis of that agency into paying inns. Although the government may not have thought much of the idea, having other priorities as usual, the concept appears to have a lasting appeal to others. Part of that day's conference at the Department of Foreign Affairs was the presentation of a group of De La Salle students of their thesis promoting the adoption of a lighthouse as a means of preserving these heritage landmarks. Congratulations are in order for Caroline Dy, Cristina Besas, Kimberly Ng and Mira Blanca Abinoja for seconding Commodore Fajardo.

Given the state of our architectural heritage and the official lack of interest, even without being told, you can already conclude that the lighthouses (there are 480 of them) are in very bad condition. Nor can the Coast Guard (the girls use the word "rehabilitate") restore and maintain them. Required operational efficiency standards of 99 percent are required by the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities. Ours operate at 86 percent. You think by any chance the Senate or House committee on maritime safety, if there were such an animal, would be interested? I wouldn't advise holding our breath while we wait though. This is probably why the Coast Guard has also decided to "entail the help of the community and private sector for funding" rather than waiting for assistance from the national government which is interested in other things.

The first part of the project deals with awareness and the proponents propose advocacy campaigns aimed at the sector that stands to benefit the most as well as secondary beneficiaries. The second part "aims to encourage business and maritime-related communities to adopt at least 85 lighthouses." Of these, 22 are considered historical and date back to the Spanish era.

The Coast Guard has come up with a leasing policy wherein private individuals, companies and organizations could "adopt" a lighthouse (and more than one, too) for a certain length of time. The lessee will of course be expected to restore and maintain the structures and "to ensure their operational efficiency by providing the necessary lights." In the process he may, if he so wishes, "set up businesses and other investments to generate continuous funds" from the adaptive re-use.

The proponents suggest restaurants or tourist spots and "real estate developers can also develop these lighthouses as part of beaches and resorts." The structures are located after all in frequently navigated sea lanes so that it would not entail taking a detour for ships of Negros Navigation or Aboitiz Lines to drop off tourists, for instance.

There are other reasons big shipping companies should be involved in such a program even if they were not to profit directly. There's security for vessels that carry raw materials and finished goods in and out of the country. "More than 60 percent of the raw materials of local and multinational companies are imported and...are heavily dependent on maritime transportation."

Then there's the corporate image they may wish to project. Civic responsibility and consciousness aren't all that important yet but it is the 21st century—so what are we waiting for?

It is expected that there would also be fewer maritime accidents that in turn would cost the shipping companies much less in replacement costs and probably lawyers' fees.

His story

YOUNGBLOOD

Michelle Rose Solano

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

MY plans for Nov. 30, National Heroes' Day, last year were very predictable: go home (to Bulacan), stuff myself with every food in sight, take a nap and sleep some more. But unknown to me, my mother had other activities in mind.

We made it to the Cultural Center of the Philippines before my brothers could even say, "Are we there yet?" My Dad parked the car at Luneta and my brothers and I waited at the Sun Cruises Inc. office. Peering through the glass windows, I saw that it was packed with Filipinos and foreigners alike. I wondered if we could still get a ticket because our trip was a spur-of-the-moment kind of thing. In other words, we did not have reservations.

Eventually, my mother came out holding two tickets for each of us, one for the cruise ride and another for a "lights and sounds" show in the Malinta Tunnel. A lights and sounds show in the Malinta Tunnel? I said to myself. What are they planning to do? Wake all those spirits in there?

The boat ride from Manila to Corregidor took us an hour. Because we did not have reservations, my family and I were assigned to different seats. I was seated beside an old man and his wife.

We arrived at Lorcha Dock, the same dock where Gen. Douglas MacArthur promised that he "shall return." Our first stop on the island was the Heroes' Memorial. People took each other's picture here and there—typical tourist stuff.

Next stop was the Malinta Tunnel, and I could not help but feel apprehensive. The tunnel was so massive that a train could fit inside. We entered and the gates were slowly closed. But before my eyes were covered by darkness, I saw the familiar figure of the old man who was seated next to me on the boat. The look on his face and his eyes made me stare at him and observe him all throughout the trip.

Darkness enveloped us. We were standing in front of the entrance to the first sub-tunnels. An orange spotlight glowed on top of a metal statue. Then a voice started to speak in a clipped tone. The man talking was Gen. Jonathan Wainwright.

The orange glow disappeared and another spotlight, brighter than the first one, beamed at a figure sitting on a chair. The voice of Manuel L. Quezon spoke, coughing every now and then. I peered behind my back and watched as the old man smiled, as if he knew something we didn't know.

The statue of Wainwright was an exact replica of him. His voice was perfect. The way he pronounced "Quezon" as "K-zown" showed great efforts were made to copy Wainwright's intonation. But something about President Quezon's voice did not seem right.

Walking toward the next tunnel entrance, I stepped beside the old man. He was chuckling, and I looked at him. "That's not the way he sounded—President Quezon," he whispered to me. "They got his voice all wrong. And the cough, it was so recorded, and sounded so fake."

We proceeded to the next tunnel entrance, set up as a hospital. Old medicine bottles and medical bags were lying on the dirt floor. The sounds came. They were made by people screaming, "Nurse, help!" *"Tulong! Tulong!"* Others pleaded: "Please, my friend is dying. Treat him first!" The nurses were yelling above the din, "One at a time, we don't have enough equipment. Please!"

Standing beside the old man, I asked, "Is this what it was like?"

"Yes, yes, this they got it perfect. This is exactly it..."

He was interrupted by a loud boom, and at that moment, the whole tunnel shook. My heart jumped out of my rib cage. The bulbs inside the makeshift hospital flashed and so did the rows of lights in the main tunnel. More screams came, sounding so real.

The old man grabbed my arm. *"Hapon!"* he whispered. But the whole thing was just a stage effect; a damn good one, for it scared the hell out of all of us.

The whole show lasted half an hour. Two video clips were shown on slide walls in different parts of the tunnel, narrations and actual recordings of the war.

The last tunnel shown to us featured soldiers playing cards, a lone sergeant playing a jazz tune and a nurse and a soldier dancing in the back room. The inanimate figures were highlighted one by one, their voices giving life to them and telling their story. And they had one story to tell: Bataan had fallen, tomorrow they might never see each other again. This was their last night and they wanted to pass it happily.

The show was over and I was almost ready to leave when right in the middle of the dimly lighted tunnel, our flag was raised. We sang the national anthem, this time prouder than we had ever sung it before.

I glanced at the old man beside me. He was in tears.

"It is a good show," I said, starting the conversation. "The lights used for the characters were orange, giving them a brownish yet golden glow, like old movies and photographs."

He was just quiet.

"The sounds seemed real, the voices, the people shouting. And the thunderous sound caused by the bombs reverberated through me. They shook me every time they were played," I continued. "And the props, they were authentic, I knew when I saw those medicine bottles..."

He gave me a look and I closed my mouth. "That is all it is to you—a show?" he demanded in a whisper.

"No!" I answered quickly. "It's history. It's real."

"How can it be real to you?" he asked. "You feel the vibration of the tunnel but that is all it is. You know it's just a show. You know there is no danger. It's a good show, yes, but nothing can compare to the real thing. No show or movie can capture the real horror of war."

I was quiet. I looked at everyone. Hundreds of people died here, and look at us, taking pictures, laughing and enjoying ourselves.

"History to you," he whispered. "My story to me."

He shuffled slowly toward our bus. "I was here, you know," he said, looking back at me. "I know."

Michelle Rose Solano, 18, is an incoming junior at the Ateneo de Manila University majoring in English Literature.

THEY SAID

Fair trial

"On a pile of Bibles we assure you that this court was not created to convict you."

—Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Minita Nazario to deposed President Joseph Estrada

No time for talking

"We've been offering peace but the communists ignore it. So we have to show the armed rebels that we are running out of time. What the Filipinos need now is food on the table and not debate."

—Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of the military's Southern Luzon Command

Computers needed for gov't reforms

WHEN personal computers became familiar office equipment, you would have thought everyone would have welcomed them. Specially employees in government offices who seemed always swamped with paperwork.

Ah, but there is something about some government offices that seems to defy the revolution in information technology. Particularly those where corruption thrives well.

Computers are the dumbest creation of man. What you see is what you get. They do not connive. They do not lie. They cannot recognize political patrons and have absolutely no loyalty to speak of. They are the last piece of equipment any Mafia in the public service wants in their offices.

No wonder there are offices of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) where the computers are kept in packing crates, hidden behind stacks of ITR returns of decades long gone, their very existence denied by mortal beings.

Because they spell bad news. The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has begun to computerize its operations and it is now well into completing them. Bad news for the vermin who wheel and deal inside the BOC.

Procurement in national government agencies will soon be coursed through the cyberinfrastructure where the protective walls of transparency can drive out the evil orcs of procurement-rigging who reign with impunity.

But in the BIR, the fellowship of change has made very little progress. Very little because the stakes are huge and the soldiers of fortune are more defiant. A few years ago, the BIR embarked on a computerization program to the tune of about $40 million. Today, very little of that system makes sense. And yet the spoils of the battle are strewn all over the posh villages of Metro Manila and suburbs with garages housing luxury cars.

In the BIR, there is a separate unit tasked with handling information technology. It is an oxymoron at the very least in an agency where the rule of thumb is to steal with your mouth shut, hands in your pocket and make sure everybody is happy. How can the computer even survive? It is currently listed as an endangered species of the modern world when reforms and reengineering are turning over vestiges of corruption and bureaucratic red tape.

Reforming the BIR calls for the computer and information technology to reign over the empires of petty thieves and corruption lords. Those tasked with introducing computerization should realize that their job is to support the operations of the bureau and not to establish a separate agency catering to itself. On the other hand, BIR people in operations should treat the "techies" as allies in a common fight to plug the leakage in tax administration.

Computerization in the BIR, Customs and government procurement are essential steps in governance reforms. That they will be resisted like virulent viruses attacking existing structures of corruption is a given. After all, as in the movie "Sneakers," while scrambling letters in search for clues to their quest, Robert Redford, droopy eyes in place, arranged them to spell, t-o-o-m-a-n-y-s-e-c-r-e-t-s.

Computers spill too many secrets out.

—JEWELWAYNE S. CAIN, volunteer, Walang Ku-Corrupt social marketing campaign, Mabuhay Street, Diliman, Quezon City

Enough of drawn-out mourning

ENOUGH of Rico Yan already. The media, especially certain TV stations, have gone overboard with the constant, week-long tribute to Yan, from the time airing starts to the time airing ends.

Don't get me wrong. I think he was a fine young man, a good example of someone who did not take his fame lightly. But the constant bombardment of everything and anything about him has started to be unnerving.

For crying out loud, let his family and friends grieve for him privately. I'm sure if he were alive, he would not have wanted to turn everything into a circus.

It's such a shame and such a sad reflection of the character of this country. Two national artists for the arts die and there is but a few minutes of tribute to them in the news. Overseas Filipino workers die in Dubai and there is but the obligatory reporting.

It just goes to show that the movie and TV celebrity is still king. No wonder we elected an action star to the presidency. Look at what this has brought us.

If this letter does see print, I'm hopeful the whole Rico Yan tribute will be mercifully over and then he can finally rest in peace.

—ISABELLA ROA, mysteryare@yahoo.com

Incredible loss of documents

IT is unconscionable that there is no one responsible for the safekeeping of the Presidential Commission on Good Government documents, especially those relating to the Marcoses and cronies.

Haydee Yorac, the PCGG chair, when asked who is responsible, retorted, "Who knows?" This kind of an answer can turn even the most gullible into a skeptic.

It seems incredible that these documents are not under proper control and tight security.

Is the whole enterprise (Marcos ill-gotten wealth investigation) a sham?

—C. PAULIN, omega is one @aol.com

'Corruption of the best is worst'

"*CORRUPTIO optimi pessima* (Corruption of the best is the worst)" is one of the many Latin aphorisms I learned as a teenager. It was an example, in connection with our Latin composition class, of juxtaposing two words with opposite meanings. I did not realize then it would one day describe our country. For when did we ever see in our country a famous father who was an ex-president and also a famous son who was an ex-town mayor sharing adjoining cell rooms, both accused of crimes punishable by death?

While I seethe with anger every time I recall one of the earliest cruel acts of Erap as president (the injustice inflicted by him directly against my wife when in July 1998 he fired her from government employment after almost three decades of faithful and exemplary service), I fully agree with Erap saying he cannot get fair treatment from the judiciary.

Erap need not look far for proof of unfair treatment. All he has to do is just to look at his son.

I, like Erap, also have a son in prison. Because my son is handsome (salesladies could not help but lovingly gaze at him whenever he went to buy clothes at the malls), kind and gentle in his ways, he is in constant danger of being harmed or, worse, raped by the prison bullies.

The injustice being committed by our judiciary against my son, along with the thousands of prisoners all over the country, is that they suffer sub-human slum surroundings while Jinggoy enjoys air-conditioned accommodations with physicians always available on short notice to serve his needs. On a per capita basis, the state spends more, much, much more, for Jinggoy than for my son and all the other prisoners.

My son has asthma. Every attack of asthma is life threatening. That is why my wife worries day and night about his health, safety and life.

The *optimi* in the Latin adage does not refer to Erap. He barely qualifies because like the stupid robbers and thieves caught with their loot, he was easily caught holding stolen riches. "*Optimi*" refers rather to the much-publicized do-gooder elite leaders like the heads of "civil society" groups who claim credit for ousting Erap and installing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, like Jaime Cardinal Sin, running priest Father Robert Reyes and bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and those who present themselves to the public as morally blameless. Truly these are "*optimi*," the best of the best.

But what is disturbing is their silence, especially the ecclesiastics' acceptance of the unequal treatment of prisoners. While Jinggoy enjoys accommodations only the super-rich can afford, and at state expenses, my son and Hubert Webb and all the other prisoners are incarcerated in sub-human slum conditions.

Are Cardinal Sin, running Father Reyes and the CBCP bishops silent because they also live in air-conditioned rooms, live the lifestyle of the rich and powerful, the privileged class of Erap and Jinggoy? Is that why they no longer see injustice in the state's treatment of Jinggoy vis-à-vis its treatment of my son and the others? Have their lifestyle and identification with the rich and powerful class lulled them, dulled their sense of justice, corrupted them? Is this the *corruptio optimi*? Yes, yes, and it makes me very sad and very angry!

For as long as the state treats Jinggoy like a prince and the ecclesiastics are silent about this singular and celebrated display of injustice, Erap should not expect fair treatment from the judiciary.

I take this opportunity to thank those who texted me their concern for my son who perfectly understood when I texted back, "Are we not all children of God?"

—NING SANTOS, 46 Simoun St., Quezon City

Grand design to brand MILF as terrorist

THE EDITORIAL "The wrong war?" last March 8, 2002 sensationalized a handful of unfounded, baseless and malicious imputations, which are apparently part of a grand design to "delegitimize" the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in order to include it in the list of a group of "terrorist" organizations.

It is obvious the INQUIRER, which has been looked upon as an epitome of media professionalism in the Philippines, might have been elicited by a massive psychological war campaign against so-called international terrorism.

This time the campaign shifts to the MILF. It labels the MILF as the "real terrorist threat" with links to the international terrorist network of Osama bin Laden, which coincides with the ongoing RP-US Balikatan 02-1 war excercises in the country.

The sources, which were mainly obtained and lifted from foreign media reports and outlets, were clearly the product of speculation without an iota of verification of the actual situation on the ground.

I say that one of the major sources of turmoil and conflicts in the world today is the "double standard" in reporting. And the usual victims are the oppressed minorities of the world. Wittingly or unwittingly, the INQUIRER, I regret to say, is fast becoming an agent of this world of make believe.

Government officials and military authorities tell us in chorus that the Balikatan exercises are mainly "military exercises" or "war games" which would be staged in Basilan and part of Zamboanga alone.

It is a blessing in disguise, however, that the reports had forewarned us of the situation that might really happen in the future and that the US troops are really here as a form of "military intervention" to conduct a military campaign not only against the Abu Sayyaf, but mainly against the MILF.

Does this mean the United States has ceased to respect the laws of civilized nations and the rights to freedom and self-determination of the oppressed minorities of the world as embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Humanitarian Law and other internationally recognized human rights instruments?

I have reason to believe that linking the MILF with the Abu Sayyaf and the al-Qaida is part of a sinister move in the pursuit of the final objective of the hawkish bloc in the Macapagal administration headed by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, at the expense of the civilian leadership of this country.

The MILF is a legitimate national liberation organization fighting for a just cause. It is the continuation of the struggle of the Moro people to regain their usurped freedom and independence. In fact, the struggle of the Bangsamoro for freedom and rights to self-determination has existed long before the coming of the Americans in the Philippines.

In the pursuit of its avowed political objective, the MILF has always adhered to the policy of peaceful means to resolve the three-decades-old armed conflicts and the age-old Bangsamoro problem in Mindanao. Hence, it has agreed to the resumption of the MILF-GRP peace talks as offered by the Macapagal administration with the firm expectation that this dispensation, unlike the regime of deposed President Joseph Estrada, really meant business at the negotiation table.

Which is true? The policy declaration of the Macapagal administration that the US troops are here for the military exercises only, or the claim of the Filipino nationalists that the US troops are here as plain and simple "military intervention" which is against the Philippine Constitution, sovereignty and territorial integrity?

Be that as it may, the MILF has nothing to worry about the Balikatan exercises as long as the GRP-MILF peace agreements are respected. The ceasefire agreement is enough to address any problem related to these exercises because the GRP-MILF agreement on the cessation of hostilities, as far as the MILF is concerned, is still holding.—**JUN MANTAWIL, secretariat head, MILF Peace Panel, GRP-MILF Peace Talks**

WE suggest that the letter writer read the editorial one more time. He might discover yet what we said.—**Ed.**

Cut (Part 2)

LAST Thursday, I began writing about a bill filed by Sen. Loi Estrada which would punish rapists with castration. The bill sparked quite a few discussions before Holy Week, with tabloids and radio commentators and not a few housewives gleefully entertaining the possibilities of *putol-ari*.

I don't know if the bill actually proposes a penile guillotine, which would put us in the international limelight again, together with our dog eaters and Abu Sayyaf bandits. While probably effective, that kind of castration is considered to be outright mutilation and would violate international norms about "unusually cruel punishment."

PINOY KASI

Michael Tan

Probably the kind of castration in the mind of our physician-senator is what vets would call neutering or *capon*, and what medical people delicately refer to as orchidectomy. This procedure is quite safe and simple, not even requiring hospitalization. A slit is made in the scrotum to remove the testes, the site of testosterone production, testosterone being the "male" hormone (females actually have them too) blamed for sexual aggression. Besides this surgical procedure, there is also "chemical castration," where the female hormone progesterone is administered every three months, and which then suppresses testosterone production.

Do these procedures work? It does with dogs and cats and pigs but humans, being humans, are a bit more complex. To explain this, we can look at the Italian *castrato* (plural form, *castrati*) for a case study. From the 16th to early 20th century, there were Catholic boys who were castrated before puberty to produce singers who could keep the "angelic" voice of a young boy, combined with the vocal power of an adult male.

These *castrati* were actually much like pop stars today, idolized for their voices, somewhat like Michael Jackson (who is not, let me repeat, not a *castrato*). Women fainted during their performances, wore medallions with their favorite *castrato* and chased after these pop idols. And the castrati were able to reciprocate, even with sex. Readers who saw the film "Farinelli," about a 17th century *castrato*, will remember what a gigolo he was, and may have wondered how a *castrato* could have so many escapades.

My point is that even after an orchidectomy, a man can still have sex. We're talking here about a volatile mixture of human lust, libido and desire that transcend hormones. I should mention that orchidectomy is in fact one of the treatments offered for prostate cancer. Because this form of cancer is driven by testosterone, an orchidectomy may help to slow its spread.

The medical books point out that there are side effects such as a reduced libido, erectile dysfunction, weight gain, fatigue, anemia, osteoporosis. The same side effects are found with chemical castration but in both instances, sex is still possible. The Americans, who think of everything, even have testicular prostheses or artificial "balls" for those concerned about aesthetics. (An equivalent, neuticles, is available for "fixed" pets.)

The fact that castration has been proposed for rapists tells us that people do recognize rape as being much more than a criminal act. In effect, Loi Estrada plays her role as a physician in prescribing castration to treat a mental disorder.

I tend to subscribe to this view, which is another reason why I think the death penalty is as atrocious as rape itself—we are really punishing "sick" individuals. Chemical castration is in fact offered in California not as a penalty but as form of rehabilitation to pedophiles.

Having said all that, I will emphasize that rape should not be kept at the level of a medical disorder. Rape involves power relations, and is most common in societies that glorify male domination and power.

Interview the rapists and many will actually say they had the right to rape their victim, because she was "asking for it." Rape often results, too, from a combination of other skewed power relations, for example, the employer over an employee, the teacher over a student, an older man over a young girl, even the father over a daughter, and the husband over his wife.

A lot of the talk around Loi Estrada's bill emphasizes how castration, like the death penalty, might deter potential rapists. I doubt it. All our executions since 1995 have involved rapists, and rape continues unabated. The evidence from countries all over the world shows that death penalty and heinous punishments don't work to reduce crime, especially when the rich and powerful (precisely the ones more prone to rape) are able to get away without any kind of punishment.

Rape prevention comes about as we change our sexual values, helping people to understand that without consent, sex is rape. That may seem so basic a fact, yet remember the debates a few years ago to amend our laws on rape when a number of our congressmen vehemently opposed the proposal to allow spouses to charge their partners with rape? Many Filipinos, women included, still believe a man has absolute sexual rights over his wife or girlfriend.

Changing our values is a long-term proposition and even if we do change our culture, rape will not be completely eradicated. Power is so intoxicating and constantly spills over into the area of sexuality. The articles about Catholic pedophile priests in the United States have generally avoided the term but let's call a spade a spade: these priests abused their power over young parishioners, some with sexual molestation and others with outright rape. If they had been in the Philippines (and I am sure they exist here), they'd be liable for the lethal injection or, if Senator Loi has her way, castration.

Lock up the rapists, but explore ways of rehabilitation. Some will reform, others won't. Castration? All it does is to penalize the penis, and to divert our attention from the real issues surrounding power and sexuality.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Misquoted on abolition of offices

THIS refers to the story "GMA scraps heritage bodies" last March 8, 2002.

Please be informed that I was not correctly quoted by your correspondents in Dagupan City. First, I never said that the commission was abolished out of political expediency. What I said was that the LGCMC, like all other commissions, was abolished after a recommendation from a committee tasked to review the functions of all these bodies found legitimate and valid reasons to abolish and transfer their functions to concerned departments and LGUs.

Second, I did not say that the executive order was signed on March 1 during the meeting held in Malacañang. I said this was signed on Feb. 11, 2002 and was presented to concerned agencies during that meeting. Such allusion is contrary to the statement in paragraph three of the story.

As backgrounder, kindly be informed that these commissions were created for specific mandates and at this point, most of them must have outlived their mandates, hence it is necessary to phase them out in consonance with the government's rationalization and streamlining of the offices directly under the Office of the President.

Lastly, I would like to inform you that I join the President in her decision to implement the executive order.

—MANUEL D. GEROCHI, undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

THE QUOTES we used to support the story premise are borne out by an official LGCMC transcript. The transcript also refers to a March 1 meeting called by the President where she signed the executive order. Gerochi was heavily quoted in the story, and the transcript backs the references.

—YOLANDA FUERTES and VINCENT CABREZA, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

UK: Israel plays dangerous game

LONDON—Britain warned Israel on Monday it was playing an "extremely dangerous game" by defying a US request to withdraw forces from Palestinian territory and strongly criticized the actions of Israeli troops.

Foreign Office junior minister Ben Bradshaw said it was "totally unacceptable" that Israeli forces had shot at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, one of Christianity's holiest sites.

"It's the latest in a long line of completely unacceptable actions by the Israeli defense force," Bradshaw told BBC radio.

"I think the Israelis are playing an extremely dangerous game. They are continuing to defy the United States," he added.

Bradshaw said President George W. Bush and his senior officials had made it absolutely clear that the international community demanded Israel's immediate withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"That means today," he said.

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, said on Sunday the EU would discuss introducing possible sanctions against Israel if it went on rejecting calls for a ceasefire in the Palestinian territories.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell left the United States on Sunday on a peace-seeking mission which will take him to Israel later this week.

On Monday, Israeli troops fired shots at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and battled Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank towns of Jenin and Nablus, defying US demands that they end their offensive. *Reuters*

A GROUP of Indonesian Muslim high school students chants anti-Israel slogans during a protest outside the US Embassy in Jakarta April 8. Indonesian Muslim groups rallied in the streets of Jakarta protesting the Israeli military's continued strikes against Palestinians. REUTERS

Defense spending across Asia seen rising after 9/11

SERI KEMBANGAN, Malaysia—Defense spending across the Asia-Pacific region is expected to rise as countries recovering from wounded economies grapple with new national security concerns, an international defense show was told Monday.

Most Asian countries were forced to slash their defense budgets during the 1997-1998 regional financial crisis, but the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States had "drastically changed the outlook toward national security," Malaysia's Defense Minister Najib Razak said in a speech to the Defense Services Asia exhibition, one of the world's largest.

"With the economy of most of these countries back on track there will be a projected increase in the defense expenditure to procure platforms, weapons systems and solutions to meet national requirements," Najib said.

Najib said the Malaysian government had embarked on "major defense procurement programs" and was scheduled to sign several contracts this week to buy new military equipment.

Najib did not elaborate but defense ministry officials said the purchases would include short-range air defense missiles, anti-amour weaponry and infantry light arms.

The three-day exhibition brings together more than 200 security officials from 36 countries and 500 companies exhibiting their latest defense technology.

Christopher Foss, an editor for Jane Defense Weekly magazine, said that since the terrorist attacks some governments were showing more interest in radar and sensory equipment to protect their borders, airports and other vital assets. *AP*

Trial of Indonesia speaker to continue

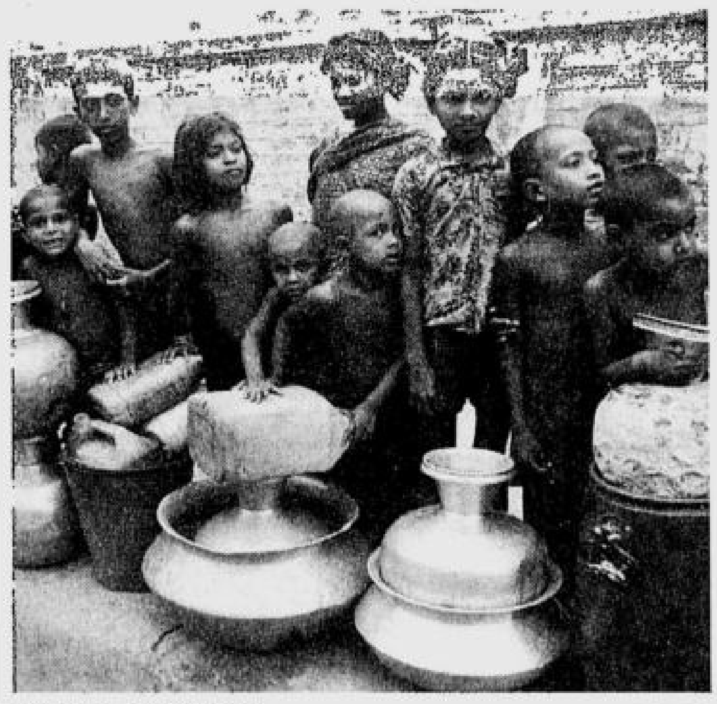
JAKARTA—An Indonesian court on Monday said the politically sensitive graft trial of the country's parliament speaker can go ahead, dismissing objections from his defense team that the indictment was flawed.

The case puts a spotlight on President Megawati Sukarnoputri's efforts to fight corruption while trying to hold together a governing coalition in which speaker Akbar Tandjung's Golkar party is her key partner.

Lawyers for Tandjung, defendant in a $4-million scandal involving the state food agency, have slammed the prosecutors for putting him and two other defendants in the dock in a single trial. His lawyers said that made the charges specifically against him unclear.

But judges said there was nothing wrong with that.

"The indictments have fulfilled the legal requirements to become the base for examining the defendant in this case. We hereby declare the trial of this case should continue," said chief judge Amiruddin Zakaria. *Reuters*



WATER TROUBLE REUTERS

Bangladesh children await the arrival of a tanker carrying water in Dhaka on April 8 as the city reels under a severe water crisis. The Bangladesh Army began supplying water with their mobile water tanks at the request of the government last week.

Ban on diesel buses in Delhi spawns chaos

NEW DELHI—Transport chaos hit the Indian capital on Monday following a Supreme Court ruling ordering half the city's public bus fleet off the road for failing to switch to cleaner fuel.

Schools were shut and long queues snaked from bus stops in the city of 13 million after the court rejected a last-ditch plea by transit operators for more time to allow them to change their fume-belching diesel buses to compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel.

The court has been spearheading a drive to end choking pollution in New Delhi, rated one of the world's dirtiest cities where doctors report a mounting toll of people with breathing ailments.

In 1998 it ordered that all buses switch to CNG and set a three-year deadline.

More than 6,000 buses, half the number that normally ply the streets, were taken off the road. Those still running were stuck in traffic jams.

"The bus came after an hour and then there was no place so we had to walk for an hour," said one exasperated commuter.

Police were braced for violence following threats by some private operators to disrupt partial services. "Various reactions can be expected ranging from road hold-ups, mob violence and rioting," deputy police commissioner S.B.S. Tyagi said. *Reuters*

Koizumi ally quits over scandal

TOKYO—A scandal-tainted lawmaker who was once a close ally of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and a former leader of the Liberal Democratic Party resigned Monday from parliament over alleged misuse of political donations.

Koichi Kato, who had already quit Koizumi's party last month because of alleged tax evasion by an aide, was called before parliament Monday to testify about that case and additional allegations he misused campaign funds.

During the testimony, Kato said he would leave politics, and hours later submitted his resignation to a parliamentary committee.

"I intend to resign as a member of parliament to take the entire social, political and ethical responsibility over the case," he said. But he added that he does not believe he is guilty of any legal wrongdoing.

"This is not to take legal responsibility," he said.

Kato, 62, has been under pressure to quit politics amid reports that he allegedly received about $676,000 of political donations in his personal bank account.

Japanese media have reported that Kato's aide transferred the money into the politician's bank account from a fund that managed political contributions. The transfers reportedly began in 1997.

Kato allegedly used the money for personal expenditures, including the rent of a high-priced apartment in central Tokyo for several years.

Kato has acknowledged spending about $7,500 of the donations in rent for his apartment, which doubled as an office.

Under Japanese law, most payments to politicians over $376 from such funds must be reported. In Kato's case, none were reported from 1998 to 2000, media have reported. *AP*

BEFORE U.S. PATENTED PROCESS AFTER
The prescription for dents, Car Doctor prescribes:
PAINTLESS DENT REPAIR
Save 20% or match the Industry's BEST OFFER!
We also do: WINDSHIELD REPAIR • WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT
PAINT TOUCH-UP • SPRAY-ON BED LINER • RUST PROOFING • AUTO DETAILING • ODOR REMOVAL
CAR DOCTOR AUTO RESTORATION SPECIALIST
Makati 7571111 Quezon City 9291111

FREE TRIPS FOR PROMOTERS
Canonization of PADRE PIO
Panoramic SCANDINAVIA Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland & RUSSIA Extn. FLORIADE May 5
ROME June 14
Extn. San Giovanni Rotondo
Capri, Pompeii,
Sorrento, Naples
Extn. Medjugorge
Dubronik, Split
Dalmatian Riviera
Glorious Istanbul, Ephesus Athens, Meteora Saronic Cruise, Cairo Dubai, Moscow St. Petersburg May 11
Pre-Canonization Special MARIAN PILGRIMAGE Opus Dei Padre Pio, Lourdes, Fatima Rome, Assisi, Venice Florence, Zormatt Madrid, Paris Amsterdam + FLORIADE May 13
Beijing, Shanghai, Hongkong Bangkok
U.S. land tour :
9 days West Coast $ 430
4 days Los Angeles + Las Vegas $ 450
4 days East Coast $ 450
Star Cruises
Inagural Princess Cruise to Alaska May 11
Adam's EXPRESS TRAVEL
Serving lifetime memories
1131 Mabini cor. Flores • Tels. 536-1736 to 37 • 522-3876 to 78 • 521-1638/51 / 98 • Fax 521-2255

We've made it easier for our customers and business partners to reach us

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Our food business corporate offices are now at the
JMT CORPORATE CONDOMINIUM
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Call our trunklines at 634-1010 and 635-2484 to inquire about any of the following businesses and products:
SAN MIGUEL FOODS, INC. (MAGNOLIA CHICKEN, PUREFOODS CHICKEN)
PUREFOODS-HORMEL (TENDER JUICY HOTDOGS, PUREFOODS CORNED BEEF, PUREFOODS CARNE NORTE)
MONTEREY
FEEDS BUSINESS (B-MEG, PUREBLEND)
FLOUR BUSINESS (PUREFOODS FLOUR—EMPEROR, KING, QUEEN)

FAX LINES:
Poultry .... 914-9274 or 914-8749
Purefoods-Hormel ...... 914-8751 or 910-6506
Monterey 914-8750*
Feeds .... 914-8747 or 633-8686
Flour 634-0194

* Monterey Farms Corporation will be moving to JMT Corporate Condominium on April 15, 2002.
Philippine Dairy Products Corporation (PDPC) remains in its current office at Legaspi corner Eagle St., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.

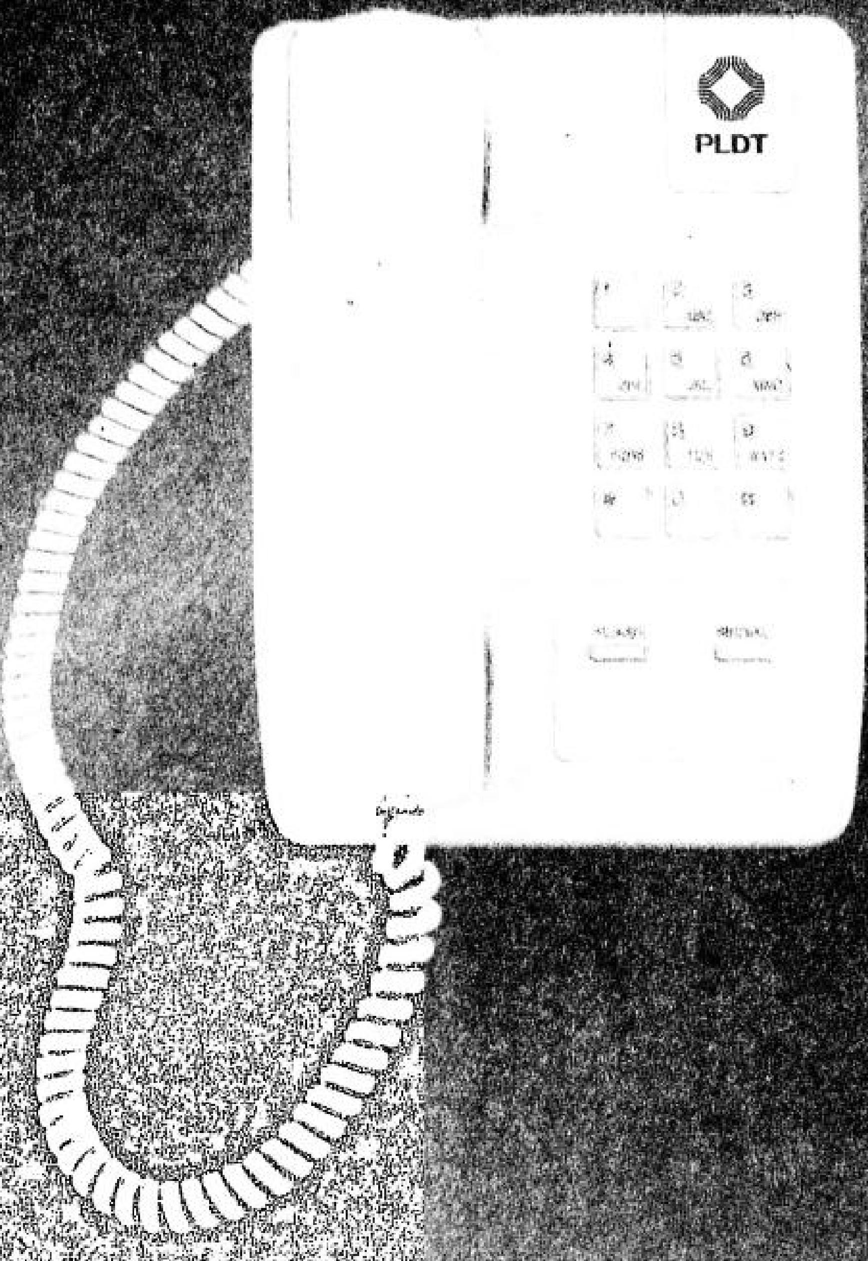
For other questions and concerns about our products, please call:
632-2000 SMC-1 Customer Service Hotline
914-1111 The Purefoods-Hormel Consumer Hotline

PUREFOODS PUREFOODS HORMEL MONTEREY B-MEG

PLDT
convergence@home

Introducing PLDT Value Call Plans

YOU SET THE FEATURES, THE MONTHLY REBATES COME STANDARD.



Now, get the [illegible] features you want in your phone with up to ***60% savings.*** Plus, you get ***monthly rebates*** on [illegible] long distance bills. Subscribe to all these value [illegible] features now!

Value Call Plans

1. [illegible] new and existing [illegible] can choose a bundle [illegible]

BUNDLE	REGULAR PRICE	BUNDLE PRICE
Call Waiting Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, Speed Calling	P 150.00	P 59.00 (61% savings)
Caller ID Caller ID, Call Forwarding, Speed Calling	P 175.00	P 79.00 (55% savings)
Mega Bundle Call Waiting, Caller ID Call Forwarding, Speed Calling	P 225.00	P 99.00 (56% savings)

PLDT
02-833-4000
CALLER ID

2. Then choose [illegible] Distance Plan [illegible]

PLAN	DDD REBATE
200	P 40.00 for DDD usage of P200.00 and above (20% savings)
600	P 150.00 for DDD usage of P600.00 and above (25% savings)
1300	P 350.00 for DDD usage of P1,300.00 and above (27% savings)

[illegible]

- Long distance plans are [illegible] and non-obligatory. Pay only [illegible] you make [illegible] long distance usage [illegible] for your plan.
- Existing subscribers of the Features Value Deals shall be automatically enrolled in a long distance plan based on historical usage [illegible]
- Existing [illegible]

Call 171 to enroll or visit the nearest PLDT Business Office NOW!

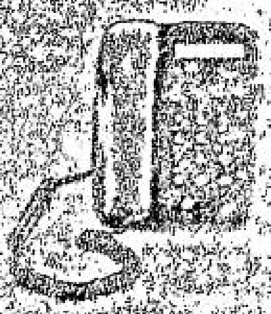
PLDT
convergence@home

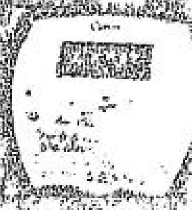
Introducing PLDT Premium Call Plans

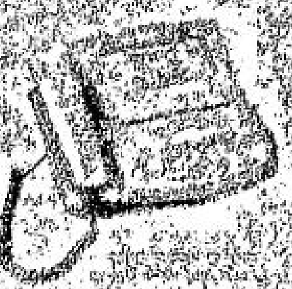
YOU SET THE RATE AND THE REST IS FREE.

If you're a frequent long distance caller, we have the plan for you! Just pay a fixed amount monthly for your DDD calls and you'll get all the features from Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding to Speed Calling and Monthly Service Fee - ***all for FREE!***

Premium Call Plans







PLAN 1

BUNDLE	REGULAR PRICE
Monthly Fee	P 700.00
Caller ID	P 75.00
Call Waiting	P 50.00
Call Forwarding	P 50.00
Speed Calling	P 50.00
DDD	P 3,500.00
TOTAL	P 4,425.00
BUNDLE PRICE	[illegible]
YOU SAVE	[illegible]

[illegible]

PLAN 2

BUNDLE	REGULAR PRICE
Monthly Fee	P 700.00
Caller ID	P 75.00
Call Waiting	P 50.00
Call Forwarding	P 50.00
Speed Calling	P 50.00
DDD	P 4,700.00
TOTAL	P 5,625.00
BUNDLE PRICE	[illegible]
YOU SAVE	[illegible]

Call 171 to enroll or visit the nearest PLDT Business Office NOW!

Saddam: Iraq will fight US action with all means

BAGHDAD—Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Sunday issued a strong message of defiance against the United States, saying his country would confront a US military action with all possible means, state-run Iraqi television said.

"We will fight them with the reeds of the marshes, with stones, missiles and airplanes and with all that we have, and we will defeat them, God willing," Saddam said.

Saddam also said Iraq would continue support for the Palestinian intifada (uprising) despite US criticism.

"If Iraq had the chance, the ability to provide Palestinians with all they need to enable them to defend their land, sanctuaries, themselves and properties, it would do it," Saddam added.

He made the comments during a meeting with his Minister of Defense, his youngest son Qusay who controls the elite Republican Guards, the commander of Iraq's air-defense system, the Minister of Industry and a number of technicians.

"If half of your air-defense capability is destroyed you will fight with the other half and if the other half is destroyed you will fight with daggers as your brothers in Palestine do now," Saddam said.

"Have not they (the Palestinians) fought the developed enemy like America with daggers and with their bodies?"

Both the United States and Britain have stepped up the rhetoric against Iraq in recent weeks, fuelling speculation that a military strike may be imminent. Both administrations continue to stress, however, that no decisions have been made.

US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair vowed on Saturday to tackle Saddam over the threat he poses with weapons of mass destruction, saying inaction was not an option.

Bush explicitly reiterated his administration's policy was to remove Saddam from power, while Blair, who faces stiff opposition at home to direct military action, said: "Iraq would be a better place without Saddam Hussein."

Saddam has refused to allow UN weapons inspectors into Iraq since they pulled out in December 1998 on the eve of US-British air strikes meant to punish Baghdad for not cooperating with the experts.

Saddam, defying US criticism that his country donates millions to the families of Palestinians killed in clashes with Israeli troops, said Iraq would continue support for the Palestinian uprising. *Reuters*

Bush not yet planning attack, officials say

CRAWFORD, Texas—The Bush administration said on Sunday it was not yet planning a military campaign against Iraq but was looking at nonmilitary options, including revised sanctions, to pressure Saddam Hussein to admit weapons' inspectors.

President George W. Bush has said "all options are on the table" to neutralize the threat Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein could pose with weapons of mass destruction. But he has yet to persuade key allies on the need for a military strike on Baghdad.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who visited Bush at his Texas ranch for talks on the Mideast conflict and Iraq, on Sunday gave the strongest signal yet that he would, "if necessary," back US-led military action against Saddam.

"We must be prepared to act where terrorism or weapons of mass destruction threaten us," Blair he told an audience at the George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, after leaving the younger Bush's ranch.

During his talks with the US president, Blair told a news conference he was sure Saddam was developing weapons of mass destruction and had no doubt the Iraqi leader would use them against his enemies without hesitation.

"If necessary the action should be military and again, if necessary and justified, it should involve regime change," Blair said.

The British prime minister, however, faces stiff resistance from his partners in the European Union and at home if he backs any US plan to launch a military offensive against Baghdad.

Separately, Secretary of State Colin Powell said on the "Fox News Sunday" program that the administration "is not yet planning an operation against Iraq" and conceded that escalating violence in the Middle East was complicating "the consideration of options" for dealing with Saddam. *Reuters*

MEMBERS of the public file past the coffin of the Queen Mother as her remains lie in state in Westminster Hall in London, April 7. Thousands of people have queued to pay their last respects to the Queen Mother, who died on March 30 aged 101. Her funeral will take place on April 9 after which she will be interred at St. George's Chapel in Windsor next to her late husband King George VI.

REUTERS

Queen Elizabeth to deliver eulogy

LONDON—Britain's Queen Elizabeth is to deliver a television eulogy to her mother on Monday and thank more than 125,000 people who have filed past the coffin of the perennially popular "Queen Muml."

And the Queen Mother's four grandsons are to mount a vigil around the coffin of the 101-year-old matriarch who helped to steer the House of Windsor through a century of tumultuous change.

In a broadcast from Windsor Castle, the Queen is to offer heartfelt thanks to the thousands who paid their last respects and gave an unexpected fillip to a monarch whose family has been buffeted by divorce and scandal.

The Queen Mother's lying in state amid the medieval splendors of Westminster Hall has struck a chord with the British who have stoically queued for up to 12 hours to pay a fond farewell to Britain's World War II symbol of defiance.

"It is a very charming and well-mannered crowd," a police spokesperson said of the orderly queue of mourners who in true British style were given cups of tea as they waited in line.

After the death five years ago of Princess Diana in a Paris car crash, the royal family was accused of being cold and uncaring as the British abandoned their traditional reserve in a national outpouring of grief.

Queen Elizabeth sought to defuse the bitterness then with a live broadcast praising Diana as "an exceptional and gifted human being."

This time, the royal family certainly could not be accused of being aloof.

Heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles paid an emotional and moving tribute to his beloved grandmother as "gloriously unstoppable and magical." His television broadcast was widely praised. *Reuters*

Car bomb blast kills 12 in Colombia street

BOGOTA, Colombia—At least 12 people were killed and 70 injured when a powerful car bomb ripped through a crowded street lined with restaurants and nightclubs in Colombia early on Sunday, authorities said.

No armed group fighting in the country's 38-year-old war claimed responsibility for the attack in the provincial city of Villavicencio—the deadliest car bomb in recent years in Colombia. But the government quickly pinned the blame on Marxist FARC guerrillas.

"This was an absolutely demented act against unarmed civilians," said Villavicencio mayor Omar Lopez. "It's a street with businesses and houses. The damage is enormous."

Police said the car bomb, packed with 50 kg of explosives, went off at around 1:10 a.m. local time, when crowds of mostly young people were enjoying a night out in a popular entertainment district of Villavicencio, a cattle and agriculture city of 350,000 people southeast of Bogota.

Minutes before the explosion, a smaller bomb went off, apparently to draw people into the area, police said. Among the dead was a young boy who sold cigarettes on the street.

President Andres Pastrana, who flew to Villavicencio and toured the devastated area, said indications were that the attacks had been carried out by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by its Spanish initials as FARC.

"The first indications point toward the FARC. Terrorists will have no refuge anywhere in the world," said Pastrana, who last February broke off 3-year-old peace talks with the 17,000-member FARC. *Reuters*

More Locations. Different Products.
Better Services. More Choices.
This is Oil Deregulation at work.

MONITORING OF PREVAILING RETAIL PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN METRO MANILA AS OF APRIL 7, 2002

LOCATION	NO. OF STATIONS	DIESEL	UNLEADED
McArthur Highway, Valenzuela			
Caltex	1	13.60	16.77
Flying V	1	13.49	16.72
Petron	3	13.00 - 13.64	16.73 - 16.77
Pinoy	1	12.98	
Shell	3	13.00 - 13.64	16.77 - 16.89
Total	1	13.60	16.75
Potrero, Malabon			
Caltex	1	13.04	16.27
Seaoil	1	12.99	16.22
Shell	1	13.64	16.77
Navotas			
Caltex	3	13.64	16.81
Petron	2	13.30	16.81
Grace Park, Kalookan City			
Caltex	1	13.64	16.77
Petron	1	13.64	16.77
Shell	3	13.64	16.77 - 16.80
Araneta Ave., Quezon City			
Caltex	2	13.64	16.77
Cityoil	1	13.49	16.74
Flying V	1	12.99	16.22
Shell	3	13.14-13.64	16.35-16.77
Cubao, Quezon City			
Caltex	1	13.55	16.80
Petron	3	13.29 - 13.67	16.64 - 16.80
Seaoil	1	12.99	16.22
Shell	1	13.64	16.77
Mindanao Ave., Quezon City			
Caltex	2	13.64	16.77
Flying V	1	12.99	16.22
Petron	2	13.64	16.77
Seaoil	1	12.99	16.22
Shell	2	13.64	16.77
A. Bonifacio St., Marikina City			
Caltex	2	13.64	16.77
Shell	1	13.64	16.77
Pres. Quirino Ave., Manila			
Caltex	1	13.06	16.09
Flying V	1	12.68	15.66
Metro Car Care F/S	1	12.99	16.40
Shell	1	13.59	16.80
Sampaloc, Manila			
Caltex	1	12.95	16.20
Diesel Station	1	13.15	
Petron	1	13.49	16.74
Seacil	1	12.40	15.60
Shell	1	13.64	16.77
Sta. Mesa, Manila			
Cityoil	1	13.40	16.65
Petron	1	13.49	16.75
Pinoy	1	12.60	15.95
Seaoil	1	12.65	16.22
Shell	2	13.45-13.49	16.80
Greenhills, San Juan			
Caltex	2	13.53 - 13.64	16.88 - 16.92
Petron	2	13.53 - 13.64	16.88 - 16.92
Shell	1	13.65	16.85
P. Guevarra St., San Juan			
Caltex	1	13.49	16.77
Petron	2	13.49	16.74
Pasig Blvd., Pasig City			
Caltex	2	13.64	16.77
Petron	2	13.64	16.77
Seaoil	1	13.01	16.24
Shell	2	13.64	16.77
Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta			
Caltex	1	13.64	16.77
Flying V	1	13.01	16.24
Petron	2	13.64	16.77
PTT	1	13.01	16.24
Seaoil	1	13.01	16.24
Boni Ave., Mandaluyong			
Caltex	1	13.53	16.88
Petron	1	13.60	16.77
Shell	1	13.64	16.77
Unioil	1	13.40	
Kamagong St., Makati City			
Caltex	1	13.66	16.78
Petron	1	13.49	16.74
Shell	1	13.64	16.80
Total	1	13.64	16.80
Makati Business District			
Caltex	1	13.86	17.24
Petron	1	13.64	16.90
Shell	1	13.64	16.86
Pasong Tamo, Makati City			
Caltex	2	13.65 - 13.78	17.15 - 17.20
Petron	1	13.54	16.84
Shell	1	13.64	16.80
Domestic Area, Pasay City			
Caltex	2	13.61	16.82 - 16.85
Petron	1	13.65	16.74
Shell	1	13.59	16.80
Taguig			
Caltex	1	13.64	16.85
Lan-Gas	1	12.79	15.83
Petron	1	13.64	16.79
Shell	1	13.64	16.85
TEC G/S	1	13.65	16.94
Along Sucat Road, Parañaque City			
Caltex	4	13.61 - 13.64	16.85 - 16.89
Cityoil	1	13.45	16.65
Petron	3	13.49 - 13.64	16.85 - 16.89
Shell	4	13.51 - 13.64	16.85 - 16.89
Total	1	13.61	16.85
Unioil	2	13.49	16.85
Muntinlupa City			
Caltex	3	13.60 - 13.64	16.88 - 16.93
Seaoil	1	12.95	16.32
Petron	2	13.68 - 13.88	16.86 - 16.86
Shell	4	13.59	16.80 - 16.88
Total	1	13.62	16.86
Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas			
Caltex	2	13.54 - 13.66	16.79 - 16.83
Jetti	1	13.46	16.74
Petron	3	13.46 - 13.60	16.71 - 16.85
Shell	5	13.59 - 13.60	16.80 - 16.85

In choosing wisely, we change our every experience of life.
All things considered... *POWER OF CHOICE* is what counts.

Department of Energy
Tel. 840-1401, www.doe.gov.ph
Enertext (0917) 8363867

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.webling.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Clear to Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Clear to Partly Cloudy	Hi 35° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Clear to Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/04/09/02

ROUNDUP

Tagum fire kills 2

DAVAO CITY—Two persons were killed in a fire that destroyed eight houses in Tagum City early Saturday. The victims were identified as Teresita Jumanagil, 45 and four-year-old Nelson Benisilon, both residents of Abad Santos corner Lapu-lapu Streets in Tagum City. Police said the fire started at the house of a certain Sayod at around 2:45 a.m. The victims were trapped inside their rooms when the fire spread to their houses. Fire investigators said faulty electrical wiring might have caused the fire.

Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

5 missing in boat sinking

DAVAO CITY—Five persons were reported missing after a motorized boat capsized in waters off Malita, Davao del Sur, on Sunday morning. Police identified the missing as Maribel Castro, Jocelyn Alvarez, Francisco Mercader, Ann-ann Boa and Alberto Casle. Reports said the missing persons were among the 25 passengers of the boat, owned by one Frankie Gallas, who were headed for Barangay Kalbay in neighboring Jose Abad Santos town. But the boat sank 300 meters away from the Malita wharf.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Pirated VCDs destroyed

LEGAZPI CITY—Authorities led by Videogram Regulatory Board chair Lualhati Buenafe on Thursday destroyed, using a bulldozer, at least 4,000 pirated video compact discs (VCDs) in front of the city hall. The VCDs were part of some 12,000 pieces seized by the National Bureau of Investigation from various establishments in the city. The NBI has retained some 8,000 VCDs for use as evidence in the prosecution of persons engaged in the illegal business.

Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Teens rob Chinese family

NAGA CITY—Five unidentified teenagers robbed a Chinese family here midnight Wednesday in the victims' house just a block away from the city hall. Supt. Elly Bron, Naga police chief, said the robbers, armed with a handgun and bladed weapons, forced their way into the house, hogtied Grace Ching, 45, and other female household members. Bron said the robbers stabbed father and son Edgar and Edrick in the abdomen. The victims, however, survived and are now recuperating at the St. John Hospital here. Police said the robbers took with them P16,000 in cash, a gold necklace worth P15,000, two cell phones and clothes.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

1,043 gamblers nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Calamba City—Southern Tagalog police operatives have arrested 1,043 alleged illegal gamblers, mostly *cabos* (supervisors) and bet collectors, in the region during the first quarter this year. Police regional director Chief Supt. Domingo A. Reyes Jr. said Batangas has the most arrests with 327, followed by Rizal with 212 arrested, and Laguna with 202. Quezon has 156 arrested; Mindoro, 82; Cavite, 39; Palawan, 5 and Romblon, 1.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Summer IT clinic

VIRAC, Catanduanes—Gov. Leandro B. Verceles Jr. is sponsoring a three-day free information technology clinic for his constituents to step up the development of the province's IT resource potential. The training will be in batches and will run from April 5 to May 15. Verceles set aside P580,000 as financial assistance to the participants. The clinic is open to all students, regardless of age. Catanduanes Internet Network (CatNet) coordinator Exequiel Mariano said about 10,000 students can be accommodated in the training, which will be held simultaneously in nine towns of the province.

Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Protest vs water rate hike

PILI, Camarines Sur—More than 100 members of consumers and farmers groups in this town held a protest rally in front of the Pili Water District (Piwad) office to oppose an increase in water rates and the use of water from the Himaao River here. Sandy Hubilla, chair of Pili Public Utilities Consumers Inc., said the increase from P9 to P14 per cubic meter of water is even higher than the rate Metro Manilans are paying. But Piwad general manager Raul Divinagracia said the consumers approved the new rate in 1999.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New fast craft

TABACO CITY—Passengers bound for Catanduanes can now reach the island-province in less than 90 minutes through the newly launched fast seacraft, M/V Ma. Natasha. The fast seacraft can accommodate 98 passengers. Gabriel Bautista, shipping supervisor, said the seacraft has five round trips daily that start from this city's port at 5 a.m. and reaches San Andres, Catanduanes, at 6:26 a.m. The last trip from this port is at 3 p.m. Passengers are allowed to bring with them only hand-carried items in the seacraft.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sayyaf not behind burning of GenSan malls, says PNP

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Philippine National Police Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza dismissed reports that the Abu Sayyaf was behind the burning of two shopping malls here.

"I doubt if Alharakatul Islamiya or the Abu Sayyaf exists in General Santos," Mendoza said in a press conference held at Camp Fermin G. Lira Jr. on Saturday afternoon.

Mendoza said local businessmen received extortion letters three days after the fire that razed Kimball Plaza, one of the biggest shopping centers in the city.

But he said the letters were too incredible.

"*Masyadong mahusay 'yong* English *ng sumulat* (The writer had perfect English). It seemed it was prepared by a professional," he said.

Owners of several big establishments here received extortion letters signed by a certain Abu Muslim Alghazie, who claimed to be the leader of the Abu Sayyaf-Special Operations Group in the city.

Alghazie was asking for P500,000 in protection money from each establishment.

He warned that his group would take punitive actions against establishment owners who refuse to grant the group's demand.

Among the big establishments that received extortion letters were Hotel Dolores and Constar Lodge.

Mendoza said they were bringing copies of the letters for examination at Camp Crame to determine their authenticity.

Government soldiers, now with the help of military technology from the US, are still pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits who are holed up in the jungles of Basilan.

The military has claimed some success in the pursuit operation, among them the killing of a ranking Abu Sayyaf leader.

Dozens of soldiers belonging to the elite Army Scout Rangers Battalion in Isabela City have started their search for the remains of Bakkal Hapilon, a ranking Abu Sayyaf leader in the province.

Capt. Harold Cabunoc, chief of the 10th Scout Ranger Company, said they believed that Bakkal, younger brother of Isnilon Hapilon, was killed after suffering serious wounds during a March 23 encounter here.

"We've heard that Bakkal died in Barangay Marang-marang and that his body was reportedly buried there," Cabunoc told the INQUIRER.

Cabunoc said based on reports they gathered, Bakkal died on March 25 from lack of medical attention.

Shortly after the March 23 encounter, an emissary, allegedly acting on Bakal's request, talked with military officials about the possibility of the wounded bandit leader being taken to a hospital.

During earlier negotiations, the emissary said Bakkal was willing to release local nurse Ediborah Yap in exchange for his treatment.

Col. Danilo Servando, Southern Command spokesperson, said the military was willing to treat the Abu Sayyaf leader, but that Yap should be released first before any arrangement could be discussed.

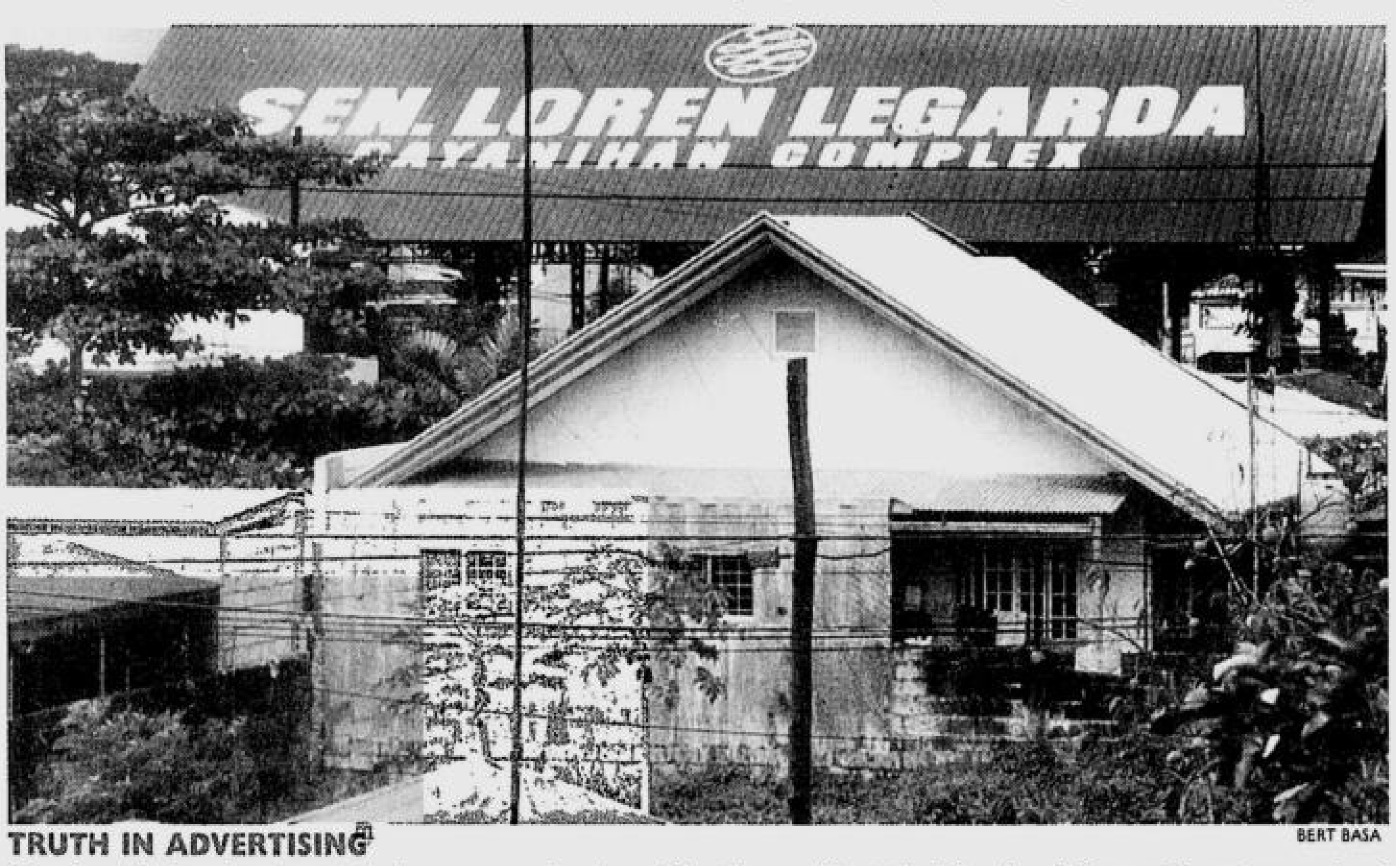
Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said after treatment, the Abu Sayyaf leader would have to face charges for his involvement in several abductions.

The talk did not prosper and Cabunoc said Bakkal was forced to seek treatment from a local faith healer.

"We are not saying that his death was confirmed that's why we are trying to locate his graveyard," Cabunoc said.

Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, said the absence of engagements between the military and the bandits from March 24 could be attributed to Bakkal's reported death.

"He was the fighter among the group, and we learned that he led the previous encounters, so probably he is already dead. But we have to get confirmations," Aleo said. ***Julie S. Alipala and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



BERT BASA

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

Why do politicians love to put their names on almost anything they could get their hands on? From milk cartons, sacks of rice, bags of groceries and, in this case, a roof of a complex in San Fernando, Pampanga, politicians make sure credit goes where it should.

Lack of water aggravates Ecija farmers' losses

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Farmer Elino Pajarillo of Barangay San Isidro in Lupao, Nueva Ecija, planted rice in his four-hectare farm this dry season as he used to do. He expected to harvest more than 300 cavans of rice.

But he harvested only 21 cavans which were not even equivalent to a fifth of the P40,000 he spent for planting and farm inputs.

Pajarillo said lack of water reduced his harvest.

"Our communal irrigation project ran dry. Our river also ran dry so there was no water to pump out," Pajarillo said in Filipino.

Pajarillo, president of the San Isidro Irrigators Association, said several farmers belonging to his group also suffered big losses because of the effects of the drought.

He said his members used to till more than 50 hectares of land but only about 20 hectares were planted to rice this cropping season. Despite the limited area, he said their irrigation supply was still not enough.

"There was also no water to be pumped out from the underground. This was the first time that it happened in many, many years," he said.

Nestor Fabianes, treasurer of the Bical-Bical Irrigators Association, also in Lupao, said crops in 25 hectares of land in his area did not survive the drought.

Greg Correa, president of the Panlalawigang Samahan ng Magpapatubig sa Nueva Ecija, said only 200 of the 500 hectares of land that used to be planted during the dry season in Gabaldon town were used for the current rice cropping.

He said the rice plants in his area were in danger of being hit by the drought because of lack of water. He said the river in their village, the source of water for their communal irrigation system, is now almost dry.

Correa, who met with 15 other presidents of irrigators' associations in Nueva Ecija at the Central Luzon State University here Wednesday, said similar tales of woes of farmers were heard from the different towns in the province.

He said they came to CLSU to study the projects they could adopt to support them now that their rice cropping failed.

"We have to look for new sources of livelihood to tide us over for the next palay cropping," Correa said.

Dr. Rodolfo Undan, CLSU president and former head of the National Irrigation Administration, presented them with livelihood projects that they could adopt.

Undan also showed the farmers some irrigation models using the pressurized irrigation system to help maximize the use of water.

John Prindiana, irrigation development officer in the provincial irrigation office, said in Carranglan, Lupao and Sto. Domingo towns and in Muñoz and San Jose City, only 560 of the 1,700 hectares of rice land supported by the communal irrigation system were planted to rice this cropping season.

The reason cited by the farmers was lack of adequate water supply.

In other areas of Nueva Ecija, officials of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems said several farmers were caught illegally pumping irrigation water from the canals of the Pantabangan Dam.

The illegal pumping of water, they said, has triggered complaints from other farmers whose rice fields are in the upper areas.

They said water could hardly reach their farms because of the illegal pumping of water from the canals.

"They want their rice land to be flooded, that's why they are resorting to illegal pumping of water from the canals. They are supposed to wait for their turn in the rotation basis being done by our field officials," said Proceso Domingo, UPRIIS project manager.

The fear that there may not be enough water to support standing crops during the drought has been forcing farmers to "steal" water, Domingo said.

He said the Pantabangan Dam is supporting 76,000 hectares of rice land in Nueva Ecija.

Tourism income triples in Western Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Tourism posted a hefty growth in Western Visayas last year when most sectors of the economy in the region struggled amid the financial crisis.

Income from tourism nearly tripled from P4.346 billion in the year 2000 to P11.681 billion last year, according to the 2001 report released by the National Economic Development Authority in Western Visayas (Neda-6).

The report showed 628,920 tourists went to the region last year, 10.16 percent higher than 570,898 tourists in 2000.

Quoting reports from the tourism department, domestic tourists comprised the bulk of visitors (524,292) while there were at least 104,638 foreign visitors.

Rowena Regalado, executive director of the Iloilo Business Club (IBC), said the figures reflected the state of tourism in Boracay.

The IBC is composed of around 90 senior executives of business firms here.

Despite the positive figures in tourism, she added, the business sector here expects "tougher times ahead."

She said the unresolved Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis and the Sept. 11 terror attacks are still hurting economic recovery efforts.

The Neda report showed other businesses performed poorly.

Prices of basic commodities accelerated during the year with the average inflation rate reaching 5.2 percent. This is higher than 3.7 percent in 2000.

Prices of food, mainly dairy, poultry and canned goods, rose 4.2 percent from 2.7 percent in 2000.

Prices of other items rose 6.7 percent from 5.4 percent last year.

While employment improved slightly in the region from 88.1 percent in 2000 to 88.7 percent last year, unemployment continued to hound urban areas.

The Department of Labor and Employment in Western Visayas said 165 firms either closed shop or retrenched. Most of these firms were in the wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance, real estate and business services, community, social and personal services and manufacturing sectors.

8 drug suspects arrested in police raid in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Elements of the Philippine National Police Task Force Banat arrested eight persons in Coron, Palawan, on Good Friday for possession of shabu and illegal possession of firearms, a police report said.

Insp. Edgardo Jagmis, task force leader, identified the suspects as Boboy G. Diaz, Sylvia Lim alias Bambi Lim, Mario Gesta alias Maloc, Jesus Vinluan alias Etot and Glenn, Ricardo Pe alias Eddie Pe, Genaro Vinluan alias Maru, Rogelio de la Cruz alias Junior, and Lenlen de la Cruz, all residents of Coron, Palawan.

They were separately arrested at 3 p.m., March 29, in Barangays 3, 5, Guadalupe and Tagumpay and charged with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act and the law against the illegal possession of firearms.

Lim was reportedly able to post bail of P40,000 and is now back home in Coron.

She was reported to be a close relative of Gov. Joel T. Reyes.

Palawan provincial information officer Rolando Bonoan confirmed the reports but he said the governor has ordered the prosecution "even of relatives to rid the municipality of drug abuse problems."

Reyes is the chair of the Palawan Anti-Drug Abuse Program established under Provincial Ordinance No. 596.

Based on PNP records, Coron is considered one of the municipalities having the most serious drug problem in the province.

An INQUIRER source, however, said the police did not weigh the amount of shabu seized from the suspects and could not give details of how much the seized drugs cost.

The apprehending team was composed of PNP personnel from the police stations of Coron, Balabac, Taytay and Puerto Princesa City.

PNP Palawan OIC-provincial director Senior Supt. Michael Garaez said he fielded policemen from other towns and the city of Puerto Princesa because Coron police alone could not effect the arrest warrant because they were identified by the suspects.

Seized from the group were packs of metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and one .38-cal. revolver and live ammunition for different firearms.

The suspects were brought to this city last Saturday and, except for Lim, are now detained at the PNP provincial headquarters. ***Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Israeli assault an 'act of indescribable brutality'

From page A1

grotto. The extent of damage was not immediately clear.

Condemnation of the Israeli assault was immediate.

Fr. David Jaeger, spokesperson for custodians of Catholic sites in the Holy Land, who is currently in Rome, told Reuters he had been informed by phone that Israeli troops had begun firing on the convent and that a fire had started.

"This is an act of indescribable barbarity," the priest said. It is a violation of every law of humanity and civilization. It is a violation of the explicit and repeated public and diplomatic guarantees of the State of Israel with consequences that will be long-term and incalculable."

"We put our trust in God and we appeal to the whole world to condemn this act and stop this behavior from continuing," Jaeger added.

In London, Ben Bradshaw, Britain's foreign office minister in charge of the Middle East, told BBC radio that this was "the latest in a long line of completely unacceptable actions by the Israeli defense force."

"The Israelis are playing an extremely dangerous game," Bradshaw told BBC radio. "They are continuing to defy the United States, not only President (George W.) Bush and (Secretary of State) Colin Powell. More recently (National Security adviser) Condoleeza Rice made it absolutely clear that what the international community demands is immediate withdrawal from the occupied territories. That means today."

Powell left Washington for the Middle East Sunday. ***(See story on this page.)***

Early Monday, helicopter gunships fired missiles into a West Bank refugee camp on the western edge of the city of Jenin, witnesses said.

The attack came after troops used loudspeakers to warn militants about the attack and urge them to surrender, witnesses said.

Workers at a hospital near the camp said 18 or 19 missiles had been fired at the camp, where some of the fiercest fighting had occurred during Israel's 11-day offensive in the West Bank.

The workers said Israeli troops took a wounded elderly man to the hospital during the missile attack.

The military would not comment on the fighting, but military sources said about 150 men in the camp surrendered their weapons to soldiers shortly after midnight Monday.

But Jamal Abdel Salaam, a Hamas militant group leader inside the camp, said the militants had not surrendered and were ready to fight to the death.

Stun grenade

A Palestinian policeman, who only gave his first name, Salah, said the fire in the convent was caused by a stun grenade that Israeli troops tossed into the besieged compound.

Salah said that when a Palestinian policeman, 23-year-old Khaled Syam, went to put out the fire, an Israeli soldier shot him in the head.

Israeli troops stopped and searched a car full of Palestinian firefighters who came to extinguish the blaze. The firefighters were eventually allowed to go to Manger Square and put out the fire, but were not allowed to go inside the compound, Salah said.

But the Israeli military said Palestinians fired assault rifles and tossed grenades from the church compound at two Israeli observation posts on Manger Square, wounding two soldiers.

Troops returned fire, and the shooting and grenades set several fires, the military said.

Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, the superior of the Franciscan community in the church, said that he had heard shooting and explosions but could not identify the source of the gunfire and blasts.

Israeli forces moved into Bethlehem shortly after beginning their 11-day-old offensive in the West Bank, an operation that is targeting militant networks blamed for a series of suicide bombings in Israel and that has trapped Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in his headquarters in Ramallah.

More than 200 armed Palestinians, including police and militiamen, have been holed up for seven days inside the church along with 40 Franciscan monks and four nuns.

Israeli soldiers have been using loudspeakers to demand that the gunmen surrender, but they have refused to come out.

The Israeli army has said troops would not storm the church.

UN demand

At the United Nations, the UN Security Council met Sunday for the fourth time in eight days to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and again demanded Israel's immediate withdrawal from the West Bank.

This month's council president, Sergei Lavrov, Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters after three hours of consultations behind closed doors that the council would hold a formal public meeting scheduled for 2000 GMT Monday.

The last such meeting, held on Thursday, lasted an entire day and drew about 50 speakers including the 15 council members.

Diplomats said the council would meet separately in private with the Israeli ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Lancry, and the Palestinian observer, Nasser Al-Kidwa, before the public meeting.

"Council members are deeply disturbed by the failure to implement (Resolutions) 1397, 1402 and 1403," Lavrov said. "There must be a ceasefire, and Israel must withdraw its forces from Palestinian cities without delay."

Resolution 1402, adopted March 30, called on both sides to "move immediately toward a meaningful ceasefire" and on Israeli forces to pull out of cities including Ramallah.

On Thursday, the council unanimously adopted Resolution 1403, demanding "the implementation of its Resolution 1402 without delay."

Resolution 1397, adopted March 12, was the first in the council's history to refer to a Palestinian state, living side by side with Israel in secure and recognized borders.

It also demanded immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction," and called upon Israel and the Palestinians to take steps toward resuming peace talks.

Lavrov said council members "believe that the continuation of violence by the power in control of events on the ground is unacceptable."

He said the council members were insisting on "full implementation by the parties of its resolutions," and were calling on both sides "to cooperate fully and in good faith" with US Secretary of State Powell and other envoys.

Lavrov also said the council was "seriously concerned" about "the further deterioration of the situation on the ground, the violation of international humanitarian law in the Palestinian territories, including many victims among the civilian population, and the threat of destruction of the Palestinian National Authority."

Torture

In Jerusalem, the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem accused Israel on Sunday of grave offenses during its military offensive in the West Bank, including torture, looting, and using civilians in military operations.

Also Sunday, Physicians for Human Rights called on the World Health Organization to declare the Palestinian territories a "human disaster zone."

B'Tselem said it had reports that Palestinians detained at a West Bank military camp were beaten while questioned. The men were arrested during Israeli searches for suspected militants in Palestinian towns and cities.

"The information we are getting is from Israeli soldiers in the camp," B'Tselem director Jessica Montell told reporters.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said no interrogations and no torture were going on at the camp.

Reports from Inquirer wires

Powell's peace journey begins in Morocco

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell left here late Sunday on a delicate diplomatic mission to the Middle East aimed at pulling Israelis and Palestinians back from the brink of all-out war.

Powell flew out shortly after 10 p.m. (0200 GMT, Monday) en route to Morocco where he will begin the first phase of his trip, seeking support from moderate Arab states for President George W. Bush's vision for the Middle East.

He also has stops planned in Egypt, Spain and Jordan ahead of his arrival in Israel expected late this week.

That itinerary has angered many Palestinians, who fear Israel will redouble its military action until Powell arrives.

"Powell could be here today. Why the delay?" Arab Israeli MP Azmi Bishara told CNN.

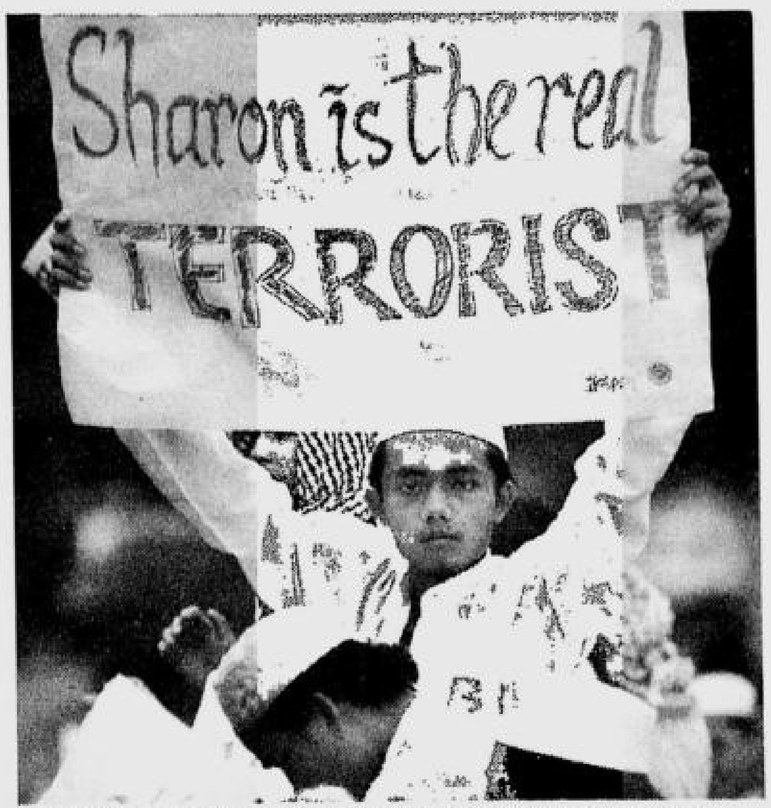
In Morocco, Powell is to discuss the situation with King Mohammad VI as well as Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, the author of a blueprint for Middle East peace endorsed by the Arab League that Washington hopes will be a catalyst for movement toward an Israeli-Palestinian truce.

Powell will then head to Egypt for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, before briefly leaving the region for talks with European officials, UN chief Kofi Annan and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov in Madrid.

He then returns to the Middle East with a stop in Jordan ahead of an as yet undetermined stay in Israel.

Before leaving, Powell and other US officials stepped up pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw his troops from the Palestinian territories, where they have been on a military offensive of more than a week.

"What (President Bush) asked Prime Minister Sharon to do was to begin the process of withdrawal and to do it now," Powell said on "Fox News Sunday." He added: "I'm pleased to hear that the prime minister says he is expediting his operations."



THE US is accused of siding with Israel by Muslim students in Jakarta where they hold a demonstration on Monday in front of the US Embassy. AFP

Arlyn can be released for ₱1M, says Sen. Noli

From page A1

Zamboanga City while on her way to Basilan more than two months ago.

Lakandula reportedly belongs to a group led by a certain Ronnie, who, in turn, receives orders from a "PNP lieutenant who is a Moro National Liberation Front integree."

De Castro said it was the wedding sponsor, who asked to be identified only as "*ninang*," who conveyed to him the lowered ransom demand. He added that the initial payment of P1 million would be secured by a "gentleman's agreement" regarding the rest of the ransom.

De la Cruz's disappearance has spawned various theories, some of them as controversial and complicated as the stories she has covered.

It is her perceived closeness to the Abu Sayyaf, however, that lies at the center of the controversy.

After she disappeared, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said: "Because of our knowledge and experience in the past . . . some of our men think that this could be another one of her operations. She is very resourceful, a smart reporter. She knows her way . . . we hope that she is safe and our troops have been told to look for her."

In her upcoming book, "My Affair with the Abu Sayyaf: A Journalist's Story," Arlyn describes her relationship with the Abu Sayyaf. She denies she had been "coddling" the bandit group, and said it was her way of getting stories and developing sources that made the Abu Sayyaf trust her.

Lady Luck

How it all started was a matter of luck. On a ferryboat going to Basilan in the mid-1990s, she was pondering how to get inside the Abu Sayyaf lair when she "happened to have a talk with a fellow passenger who would prove to be a major intermediary," according to Inq7 editor in chief Getsy Selirio.

"If you've met Arlyn, you wouldn't be surprised since she can make anyone—yes, even Abu Sabaya—feel comfortable just by plain talk," Selirio wrote in "Knowing Arlyn de la Cruz."

Selirio said that "on first meeting, Arlyn strikes one as a very normal girl with a sunny disposition and charming smile."

"Her real persona is a far cry from what military intelligence reports have portrayed her to be, that is, as a 'coddler' of terrorists, or the 'wife/girlfriend' of Abu Sayyaf Amir Khadaffy Janjalani," she said.

To those who know De la Cruz, she is simply a reporter who loves a "good scoop." But De la Cruz, a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo, told Selirio that she had "never compromised her faith, her womanhood or her family, just so she could get the story."

Her close association with the Abu Sayyaf has caused the military to tag her as "one of them," but Arlyn has denied this.

"I am not one of them. I am not a supporter. I am not a believer (in) their cause," she said in her book's introduction.

Having covered the Abu Sayyaf for many years, she concluded that the group was not driven solely by ransom money. Their problem was much deeper—tied to the centuries-old oppression experienced by marginalized Muslims in Mindanao.

Khadaffy's call

De la Cruz calls Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani "Daf" or "Khaddy."

She recalls an unusual phone conversation with "Daf" sometime in 1997 (the excerpt first appeared in an Inq7 special):

"This is Daf."

The voice on the other line was hardly audible. I was a bit tense, about to leave for the day's news coverage. "Can you speak louder please?"

The next words were clearer and I almost saw him—Khadaffy Janjalani—half smiling.

"Daf, how are you? It's been a month since you last called." It was June or July of 1997, and I was talking to the younger brother of Ustadz Abdurajak Janjalani, the leader of the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf. At that time, the older Janjalani was still alive and his younger brother (had) yet to take on the leadership of the Muslim rebel group.

Daf wasted no time in relaying his message. "I am getting married. I want you to be here," he said flatly.

I kidded him, "So what do you want me to do? Fly there and stop the wedding, or be your godmother?"

He did not respond.

I continued, oblivious of the silence on the other end of the line. I kidded him: "Will you pay for my plane ticket if I do so? Who is the lucky girl?"

His next statement caught me by surprise. "Why are you happy? Is that all you'll tell me? Why are you not affected?"

I tried to make sense of what he was saying. I refused to directly respond to what he was trying to imply. The very thought of it scared me in more ways than one. It was my turn to be silent.

"This was something that was planned since I was a kid, part of tradition. But I can get out of this situation, if only you'll tell me so."

"My wedding is scheduled tomorrow. Everything has been set," he continued.

I felt as if he was pressuring me to say something that he knew very well I (could not live up to).

"Then get married. Go. Get married," I said in a (higher-pitched) voice.

"I promise you, I will be the best husband there is, a good provider and a friend to both my would-be wife and children."

After he uttered those words, I heard a busy tone on the phone. He (had) hung up.

Brother, sister

In her book-in-progress, De la Cruz explained the strange call: "I was 27 then and he was only 22 at that time. (It was) a brother-sister kind of relationship for most parts. Except for that one confusing call."

"I have yet to ask him what that call really meant on his part. If it (had been) a turning point in his life, I wouldn't want to know (but I feel) partly responsible for everything that he is right now," she said.

"Even if I (had given) a different response then, eventually, he would still end up . . . where he is right now: leader of the dreaded group Abu Sayyaf. Or so I would like to assure myself now."

"Minus that episode in our relationship, I would say, yes, Khaddy and I are good friends."

De la Cruz said she and the young Janjalani went beyond the "journalist-source" relationship because "there was a period in his life that he was just an ordinary resident of Basilan who regularly (updated) me on his personal life."

"He too was as concerned about the very colorful twists and turns (in) my own personal life. I was his Ate Helen Vela. He was my Joe D' Mango," De la Cruz wrote.

In 1995, she snagged her first exclusive interview with Abu Sayyaf hostages—a group of surveyors.

"As for Khadaffy, the only words that he uttered to me at that time were these: '*Puede kang bumalik*, anytime. (You can come back anytime),'" she wrote.

This was a "one-liner that traces the start of this unique 'friendship,'" she said.

Maturan dies . . .

From page A1

"We just got a call that he had a heart attack and was brought to the hospital," Dominic, 31, told the INQUIRER. "He died at around midnight."

It was his second attack.

Just last week Maturan, along with *kundiman* artist Ric Manrique Jr., kept vigil at the wake of National Artist Levi Celerio in Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

Celerio's daughter Olivia was overjoyed at Maturan's presence.

"Now I know how much he loves my father," she said in Filipino. "For the longest time, Maturan was not seen in public. But he's here."

In a short interview that Wednesday night, Maturan described Celerio as "like a father, who would scold us now and then."

He said he had learned so much from Celerio—from entertaining the public to choosing the songs to sing.

He recorded the countless Celerio songs with "Dinggin" as his favorite, Maturan said.

Dominic, who works for China Airlines, remembers Maturan as a concerned and loving person, "not strict."

"He worked to give us what we wanted," the son said. "He did everything to make his family happy. Whenever I would call him to bring us pizza, he would buy pizza on his way home . . . We were often mistaken as brothers, so I would simply joke, It's either I look old or my dad looks young."

'Tawag ng Tanghalan'

The song "Rose Tattoo" may have little or no significance to members of the young generation. But for their elders, it is synonymous with the dusky crooner who made an effortless leap from amateur singing to the movies.

Singing "Rose Tattoo," Maturan became the national champion of the country's then most prestigious amateur singing contest, "Tawag ng Tanghalan."

Maturan was taking a pre-dentistry course at the University of the East when he won in "Tawag ng Tanghalan" in 1958. That same year, LVN Pictures signed him up to a starring role in the movie, "Rose Tattoo ng Buhay Ko," opposite Charito Solis, now deceased.

From 1958 to 1965, he did 25 movies, among them "Private Maturan," "Prinsipe Maturan at ang Mahiwagang Gitara" and "Ginintuang Tinig."

Maturan started out as an interpreter of foreign songs but became a tireless promoter of original Filipino music.

He recorded the classic compositions of Mike Velarde Jr., like "Dahil sa Iyo," "Buhat," "Silayan" and "Gabi at Araw."

At the peak of his career, Maturan was a regular entertainer at the famed Clover Theater and sang in almost all radio and TV programs.

He performed as well for American soldiers at the then US military bases.

Awards

In 1984, he received a Cecil Award for outstanding light classical vocal recording for his version of Ernani Cuenco's "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal."

He was also the first male singer to receive a Hall of Fame award from the National Press Club.

In 1998, he won a Katha Award for best traditional vocal performance for Universal Records' "Diyos Lamang ang Nakakaalam."

During the jubilee year in 2000, Maturan participated in the nationwide pilgrimage and performed with the likes of Basil Valdez, Pilita Corrales, Jamie Rivera, Marco Sison and Jeanne Young.

Last year, he recorded for the album "King of Kings," a commemorative release of musical director Danny Holmsen of Sampaguita Pictures. He was featured with Manrique, Sylvia La Torre, and The Mabuhay Singers.

Business ventures

In the late 1980s Maturan opened a music lounge, Rose Tattoo, along West Avenue in Quezon City. But the business closed in less than a year.

At the time of his death, he owned Virgo Laboratories, a firm supplying medicines and medical products to government agencies that he put up in 1979 with his friend Ernesto Villanueva.

Maturan is survived by his wife Sylvia and four children—Dennis, 34; Maria Teresa, 32; Dominic; and Marjorie, 12.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Chapel in Quezon City, but will be moved tonight to the Arlington Funeral Homes along Araneta Avenue.

Interment is scheduled on Saturday at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City. ***With a report from Nini Valera***

'Will you still need me . . .

From page A1

use of the human potential of older people, will help to meet the possible costs deriving from the new population structure," he said in opening remarks.

ANNAN

Developing countries, where the percentage of older persons is lower now but growing much faster than in the West, face the same challenges on top of current problems of poverty, HIV/AIDS and economic development.

Senior explosion

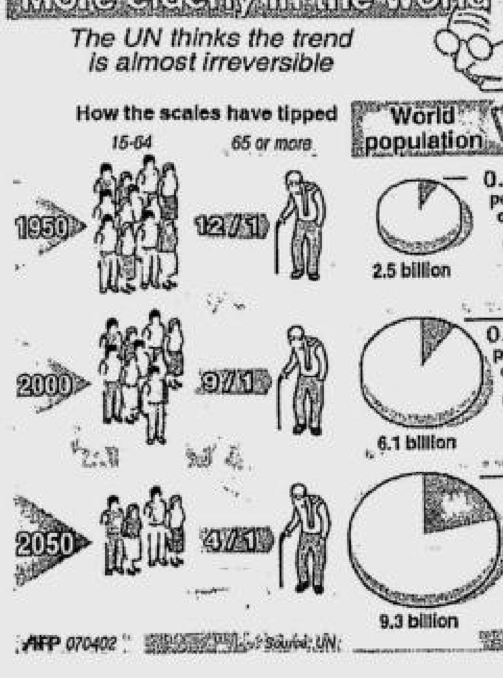
In France, for example, the elderly population took 140 years to grow from 9 percent to 14 percent. In less developed countries, the percentage of the elderly is expected to explode from 8 percent now to 20 percent in less than 50 years.

"The increase in those countries is so rapid that they don't have time to prepare," said Esther Canja, president of the US advocacy group AARP, in an interview. "They are going to find . . . that families cannot do it all."

The assembly, following up on one 20 years ago, plans to adopt a document totaling more than 50 pages "to promote the development of a society for all ages."

Among the remaining issues to be worked out is specific language to incorporate financial pledges made at last month's UN International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico.

"The resources for supporting sustainable development programs are there," UN official Nitin Desai said. "It's a matter of finding the appropriate formulations, but this I think will be sorted out." **AP**



Priest freed, not rescued by police

From page A1

release was "a big step toward peace."

Fierce battle

"After a fierce battle in the mountains of Mindanao, we have rescued Father Pierantoni," the President said in a radio address marking the 60th anniversary of the fall of Bataan in World War II. "This was a very beautiful gift to me.

"We are slowly reaping the fruits of our efforts to combat terrorism, poverty, crime, corruption and the respect for the rule of law," the President said.

Pierantoni was not allowed interviews and was directly escorted to a side room of Malacañang's Reception Hall after he and Ms Macapagal issued their statements.

"He is still in a confused state. All the time he thought he was brought to Basilan so it was a big surprise to him when he was told that he was in Zamboanga," said Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

The Italian priest, a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Order and assistant parish priest of Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, was kidnapped on Oct. 17 after saying Mass.

It was not clear how government forces "rescued" Pierantoni.

Lina said Pierantoni was abandoned by his captors in Tungawan.

But military officials in Zamboanga Sibugay province said they did not know about Pierantoni's release.

No coordination

"He was released without us knowing it, and he was released to the PNP (Philippine National Police). There was no coordination whatsoever with the military," said Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, chief of the 102nd Army Brigade based in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Even Senior Supt. Edwin Soledad, police chief for operations in Western Mindanao, could not say how the priest was freed. "We don't have any idea how Fr. Pierantoni was freed," he said.

But Ramboanga said he learned from the troops in Tungawan that somebody from Manila arranged the release of Pierantoni.

Fr. Jerry Sheehy, superior of Sacred Heart of Jesus Order, said that after the recovery of Pierantoni he was handed over to a certain Director Rey Velasco of the PNP, who brought him to Dipolog City where he boarded a plane bound for Manila.

Sheehy said Pierantoni's family in Bologna, Italy, had been informed of the good news.

"His family was very happy and thankful to the Lord for his safe release," he said.

Atutubo attributed the rescue to the information gathered following the arrest of Norhan Amil alias Commander Ramsey, and three of his followers on Friday.

"After interrogation and investigation, their statement helped in pinpointing the areas of the supposed hideouts," Atutubo said.

Mendoza version

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said in Malacañang that Pierantoni was recovered at about 2 a.m. following relentless operations by Task Force Mindanao, a special PNP group formed to free the priest.

Mendoza's own admission that "there was no firefight" before Pierantoni's recovery and that not one Pentagon member was arrested further fueled speculations that the Italian priest was released after payment of ransom.

"There was no ransom paid," Mendoza declared amid speculations that money changed hands for Pierantoni's freedom.

Mendoza said some 60 members of the Pentagon gang abandoned Pierantoni at the boundary of Zamboanga del Sur and Sibugay province after sensing the presence of some 100 Special Action Forces (SAF) in the area.

The rescue came a couple of days after government troops pinpointed the exact location of Pierantoni and his kidnappers.

Mendoza said there was no armed confrontation prior to the Italian priest's rescue, adding that SAF members did not fire on the kidnappers during the operation to ensure the safety of the kidnap victim.

"Now there's a hot pursuit operation against the kidnappers," he told a press briefing at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

MARCHING orders from President Macapagal: Wupe out the Pentagon gang and all other kidnap gangs. ERIK ARAZAS

Director Reynaldo Velasco, director for PNP comptroller and deputy chief of the anti-kidnap Task Force Mindanao, and Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, Region 9 director, led the troops that recovered Pierantoni.

Mendoza said in Malacañang that Pierantoni was abandoned by his captors after sensing that the police were closing in on them. He said the priest was found "walking."

"This is normal . . . they leave behind their hostages," Mendoza said.

He said that the last firefight between police forces and the Pentagon occurred two days ago and that this "massive operation in the Zamboanga Peninsula led to the recovery (of Pierantoni)."

"We're very aggressive in our operations," Mendoza said, recalling that during the Feb. 7, 2002 founding anniversary of the PNP, the PNP was designated by Ms Macapagal to take the lead role in the campaign against the Pentagon group.

Sheehy also denied that ransom money was paid to the kidnappers.

In his March 16 letter to Bishop Zacarias Jimenez of Pagadian City, Pierantoni said his captors were demanding $1 million in exchange for his freedom.

Jimenez also denied ransom was paid.

But Fr. Indra Pamungkas, an Indonesian and formator of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Seminary in Cagayan de Oro City, said ransom could have been paid.

Politicians-negotiators

Pamungkas said that if ransom was indeed paid, it did not come from the religious sector but from politicians who negotiated with an Italian engineer.

Ipil Bishop Antonio Ledesma has called for an investigation of reports that ransom was paid to the abductors of Pierantoni.

In her statement, the President said that following Pierantoni's rescue, she is "directing the PNP and the AFP to intensify their operations to wipe out the Pentagon gang and all other kidnap gangs."

"We will not rest until this scourge has been wiped out of our land," Ms Macapagal said.

Her "marching orders" were: "Give them no quarters. Annihilate these criminal gangs."

The President appealed "to the people of Mindanao, to our Muslim brothers, to help us end this scourge of kidnapping."

The Pentagon group has still about 100 members, according to Mendoza.

Mendoza said the PNP had deployed two battalions of its elite Special Action Force to go after the Pentagon group.

The Pentagon gang has been blamed in the past year for abducting an Italian, a Canadian, wealthy Filipinos and several Chinese engineers who were on a government irrigation project. One of the Chinese was killed and another wounded in a military rescue attempt. Pierre Belanger of Ottawa, Canada, was rescued two days before Christmas after two months in captivity.

The group has not released its Korean hostage Jae Kwon-yoon, who was kidnapped on Feb. 6, 2002 along with Filipino businessman Carlos Belonio in Maitum, Cotabato City. ***With reports from Hernan P. de la Cruz, Julie S. Alipala and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP and AFP***

'A miracle of prayer,' says priest from Bologna

From page A1

something we got from nature like fish and vegetables from the forest," Pierantoni said.

"I ate also very strange things, including jellyfish and iguanas and potatoes which are poisonous and have to be prepared very carefully to be edible."

The priest said Pentagon leaders had assured him he would not be harmed and that they kidnapped him on Oct. 17 to raise ransom money to buy arms and defend themselves from the army.

Dialogue

"It was an experience of dialogue, because they were Muslims with very simple ideas of their religion. It was interesting to listen to their experience of suffering and hopes of liberating Mindanao," he said.

Pierantoni said he planned to return to Italy and visit his elderly parents, who became desperately worried after erroneous military reports last year that he had been killed.

However, he planned to return to his Dimataling parish in Zamboanga del Sur province soon.

"My parents are victims of the kidnapping too, can you imagine what it means for them to believe that their son is dead for six months?" the missionary said.

"I want to go back to the South surely, I don't think they will kidnap me again, do you?" he said.

"There is a miracle in order to get me free and without any harm and suffering," Pierantoni said. "I am really very, very thankful, very grateful to God and also to the Philippine government and all those who really showed solidarity to me."

He particularly thanked Pagadian City Bishop Zacarias Jimenez and "his flock for what they did to me." ***AFP and Carlito Pablo***

PVAO owes veterans P17.3 billion in benefits

From page A1

she told the INQUIRER. "So we did some checking and we're shocked to find out that somebody from Aliaga town, Nueva Ecija, used my husband's name in filing the claim. The same person also used my husband's alias, which was Agustin, his surname, in the same claim for old-age pension."

"Why did PVAO allow such things to happen?" she asked.

Eighty-year-old Rafaela Narciso of Guimba town, also in Nueva Ecija, has the same problem. "A certain Leonila from the municipality of Sto. Domingo has been using my name since 1999 in getting the monthly old-age pension," Narciso said.

Their problems are "definitely not isolated cases," said former Huk supremo Luis Taruc. "There are many other war veterans and surviving spouses of veterans with the same problem.

"Some PVAO fixers were most likely responsible for the irregularity," he said. "But fixers who prey on old and poor war veterans won't be so daring if they have no contacts at the PVAO office."

"It always takes two to tango," he added.

Fixers' mafia

Emmanuel de Ocampo, president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), believes graft and corruption has been "there at PVAO all the time."

"An octopus-like mafia is behind most, if not all, the financial anomalies at PVAO," De Ocampo said.

"And you cannot say that that mafia was born just yesterday. There were already reports of anomalies when PVAO was still based in Arroceros Street (near Manila City Hall). And that was 30 years ago. The same group of corrupt insiders was behind the inclusion of fake war veterans in the PVAO roster," the retired Army colonel said.

Retired Navy Commodore Artemio Arugay, who assumed his post as PVAO administrator only last year, confirmed what he called "reports of corruption" at the agency.

He disclosed, among other things, that "even bank remittance forms for old-age pension which are supposed to be free of charge are being sold for P300 apiece."

Arugay, also a former vice chair of the Armed Forces Modernization Board, claimed "it's the work of fixers. If there are fixers outside the PVAO office, there are also fixers inside. I believe most of the fixers are outsiders."

"It's difficult to pinpoint who the fixers are but one way of killing their illegal operation is preventing third-party follow-ups on claims. We even require children of pension claimants to show a special power of attorney before we entertain their queries on any claim," Arugay said.

Aside from "getting rid of fixers," Arugay said there was a "need to cleanse the PVAO rosters of fake veterans and fake pension claimants, too."

Fake guerrillas

Fake guerrilla groups are "a dime a dozen," De Ocampo said.

"I'm very fortunate that I know almost all these guerrilla organizations in Central and Southern Luzon. In the Sierra Madre mountain range alone, there were only 3,000 guerrillas during the war. But after the war, there were 200,000."

Arugay said PVAO "funds are limited but (this doesn't) stop thousands of people from filing claims. Any employee can be tempted from engaging in some irregular practices to make easy money."

1948: Huk Supremo Luis Taruc with close relatives and supporters in Barrio San Agustin, San Luis, Pampanga shortly before he boarded a plane for Manila to meet with President Elpidio Quirino who offered him amnesty.

He said he has "put up a one-stop shop for the processing of claims. Another top priority is the core value formation program," he said.

Just recently, PVAO dismissed two of its employees found faking their civil service eligibility and academic records. Arugay said he has also "ordered the reshuffling of personnel and had those allegedly involved in irregularities investigated."

"We cannot eliminate graft and corruption here overnight. But let me assure the veterans and the public in general that we're doing something about the problem," he said.

De Ocampo-said Arugay needed "time to sanitize the list of veteran pensioners, get rid of the fixers and corrupt personnel at PVAO. He is still new there and it's just fair to give him time. We have to take into consideration the fact that he is also a victim of the same mafia." The VFP head did not elaborate.

The Commission on Audit has been an active partner of the PVAO in its ongoing purge of fake veteran pensioners from its roster. In another initiative to "come up with a list void of invalid claims," PVAO last November forged a memorandum of agreement with the National Statistics Office.

"We want to make sure that only certified veterans are given pensions and benefits as mandated by law. This is another way of freeing PVAO from the public perception that it is a graft-and-corruption ridden agency," Arugay said.

From postal to bank remittance

Another PVAO thrust is shifting the mode of pension payment from the postal system to a bank remittance program. In January, up to P623 million in benefits were still being remitted to pensioners by post.

The PVAO budget for 2002 amounts to P13.3 billion, including P11.6 billion for 205,056 old-age pensioners; P642.7 million for 39,822 death pensioners; and P246 million for 17,963 disability pensioners.

This year, however, Arugay said PVAO "won't be able to settle its arrears to veterans amounting to P17.3 billion (P3.16 billion in old-age pensions and P14.1 billion in total administrative disability pensions)."

"We're addressing the arrears issue now," he said. "We formed a committee to look into this problem." PVAO is considering two options: "giving the veterans a one-time lump sum gratuity and paying the arrears through a combination of appropriation and floating of bonds."

Insufficient funds

Rep. Tomas Dumpit, chair of the House committee on veterans affairs, admitted that "there's not enough funds for veterans' benefits."

"But we're trying to find ways to raise funds like setting aside money for the disability benefits. We have requested the budget and finance departments to allocate at least P3 billion each year until the P14-billion arrears have been offset," he said.

The La Union legislator, also vice chair of the House national defense panel, claimed, "funding for veterans is still a government priority. But you must bear in mind that the total budget now of PVAO is more than P12 billion and every year it is increasing. Pension funds also increase by P500 each year."

He said he was optimistic PVAO's financial woes "will be settled in about five years. (Or) three years if the economic situation in the country improves. By that time, we can increase the veterans' allocation by P3 billion to P5 billion each year."

The clock, however, is inexorably ticking.

Taruc, the Huk founder, asked the obvious, plaintive question: "What good is the grass if the horse is already dead?"

'The Americans ate canned goods, we ate grass...'

By Jerry Esplanada and Dona Pazzibugan

"WHERE is their debt of gratitude?"

Luis Taruc, the former Huk supremo, lamented the fate of the Huk guerrillas—forgotten by time and neglected by the authorities.

"Many Americans hid behind Filipino soldiers and guerrillas. The Americans ate canned goods. We ate even the grass and the leaves of trees. They wore complete uniforms. We were barefoot," Taruc said in Filipino.

"In 1945, we helped liberate some 4,000 prisoners of war (POWs) at the University of Sto. Tomas and about 2,600 POWs at UP-Los Baños. When the Huks reached Obando, Bulacan, they were disarmed by the Americans. They were later moved to a Malolos jail. There, they were killed by so-called Usaffe guerrillas. We call them 'tulisaffe,' or bandits posing as guerrillas, the same people who welcomed US troops with fried chicken and women. Many of these 'tulisaffe' are now receiving old-age pension. It's so unfair."

Whether President Macapagal-Arroyo singles out the Huk veterans for special mention today at the Mt. Samat Shrine in Pilar, Bataan, this morning, where she will pay homage to the heroes and veterans of World War II, remains to be seen.

"To these brave hearts who fell in Bataan and Corregidor, and in the many other places and times, let us join hands in common bereavement," she said in her message for Araw ng Kagitingan.

She did observe that this year's celebration of Araw ng Kagitingan comes at a time when the RP-US Balikatan military exercises are ongoing.

"Today's celebration is dedicated to the ideals of freedom, unity and progress. It comes at a time when we are in the midst of the Balikatan 02-1 . . . an essential step in mutually strengthening military capabilities to respond to the global threat of terrorism," she said.

Former Huks have lamented that more attention has been given to communist and separatist rebels than former guerrillas and others who risked their lives to defend the country. Taruc expressed hope "the administration . . . finally wakes up from its deep slumber and recognizes the heroism and sacrifice of all Huks during the Second World War."

"When that time comes, Huks will finally wipe away the tears of injustice and indifference they suffered during the past 57 years," he said. "We're not giving up."

Feeling right . . .

From page A1

The man and woman were talking quietly oblivious to their palatial surroundings. She wore slippers and an orange "duster," which most housewives wear at home.

Taking a closer look, the reporters saw that it was President Macapagal herself and her husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo. The First Couple had been walking their dogs—five or seven of them at the time—at the wide expanse of lawn fronting Kalayaan Hall.

A Presidential Security Group(PSG) guard on duty that night was also surprised. He said it was the first time he saw the First Couple walked their dogs on the Kalayaan grounds.

Except for the reporters and the PSG guards on duty, there was nobody else around to see the First Couple being just husband and wife who are dog lovers.

Three of the presidential dogs, a dalmatian, a golden retriever and a rottweiler were commissioned into military service last month after they completed a four-month training by the PSG's K-9 unit dubbed Home of the Sniffers inside Malacañang Park.

The First Couple's own dogs are now employed to do the bomb sniffing inside the private quarters of the Arroyo family.

The heavy iron Kalayaan gates were closed all the time the First Couple were walking their dogs.

MBA FIRST CONFERENCE

Negros, Olongapo target share of lead

By Roy Luarca

GAME TODAY (Olongapo Convention)
6 p.m.—Negros vs Olongapo

TWO playing days, two overtimes. Competition in the MBA First Conference is turning out to be keener than expected.

In the inaugurals on Saturday, the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems bested the Osaka Pangasinan Waves, 109-99, after being held to a 91-all count in regulation play at the Cebu Coliseum. On Sunday, it was the turn of the RCPI Negros Slashers to walk the tightrope before subduing the LBC Batangas Blades, 76-67, at the Olongapo Covention Center.

Another close encounter is expected when RCPI Negros and Olongapo clash at 6 p.m. today in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference at the Olongapo Convention Center,

The Slashers and the Olongapo Volunteers both won their first assignments on Sunday to tie Cebuana Lhuillier and Professional Davao Eagles on top of the eight-team field.

The debuting Volunteers downed the LBC Batangas Blades, 90-85, at the Olongapo Convention Center also on Saturday.

Led by Fil-Am Jeffrey Flowers, the Volunteers preserved a 68-59 third quarter lead and then banked on a clutch jumper by Brixter Encarnacion to subdue the Blades, the reigning national titlists.

The 6-foot-8 Flowers wound up with a game-high 29 points aside from dominating the shaded lane, while the 6-foot-4 Encarnacion contributed 15. Coch Junel Baculi also drew offensive might from Johnedel Cardel, who fired 19 points, and Henry Fernandez, who chipped in 16.

Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon and Olongapo City Mayor Kate Gordon led their constituents in cheering the Volunteers, the league's newest member in the Northern Conference.

Alex Compton scored 25 points for the Blades, followed by Jeffrey Sanders with 17 and 2001 MVP Eddie Laure with 14.

Mon Tuason, MBA director for marketing and business development, said the first two playing days both drew sellout crowds, affirming the league's strong drawing power.

Cebuana Lhuillier and Professional Davao Eagles are disputing the solo lead at presstime at the Cebu Coliseum.

MBA games on Saturdays and Sundays are telecast over National Broadcasting Network 4.

Blu, Kutitap score contrasting wins

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Shark vs Ateneo
6 p.m.—Montaña vs Ana

FORMER Rookie of the Year Marlon Legaspi and John Paul Prior excelled as Blu Sun Power turned back newcomer John O-Juzz, 76-69, yesterday even as Kutitap outgunned RP Youth, 101-72, in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

In the nightcap, International Container Terminal Services Inc.-La Salle blasted Ana Freezers, 88-71, and joined Kutitap on top of the leaderboard with two straight wins.

The 6-foot-5 Legaspi, named top rookie two seasons ago, taught Ranidel de Ocampo a neat lesson in defense, while the 5-foot-7 Prior secured Blu's first victory in two games when he nailed a crucial three-pointer with ticks left in the game.

Prior scored his team's last four points from the charity lane.

Legaspi escaped with 18 points and frustrated the 6-foot-5 De Ocampo underneath with his umbrella-like defenses as the Detergent Kings held their ground in the final 10 minutes of play.

Slippery Froilan Baguion gave the Juzzers their last taste of the lead with a lay-up, 63-61, but Miko Roldan, Legaspi and Tris Codamon answered with three straight baskets. The roof caved in on the Juzzers as Prior turned a Baguion error into a crunching triple, 72-65, two minutes remaining.

With former teammate Egay Billones, now with FedEx, cheering from the stands, Blu raced to a 44-35 halftime edge behind Aries Dimaunahan, Legaspi and Prior.

Kutitap was simply too powerful for the nationals, who are using this tournament to prepare for two international tournaments.

Cyrus Baguio, Allan Salangsang and Niño Gelig all finished in double figures as the Sparklers never relinquished a 27-18 first quarter lead.

SCORES:

KUTITAP 101—Baguio 17, Salangsang 16, Gelig 14, Mercado 8, Saquilayan 8, Jones 8, Espiritu 7, Luanzon 6, Rivera 5, Razon 4, Dy 2, Sison 2, Mallari 2, Yuson 2.

RP YOUTH 72—Benitez 15, Nkemakola 14, Torculas 9, Arao 8, Fernandez 7, Balboa 5, Agbayani 3, Malagueno 2, Baldos 2, Aguilar 2, Porras 2, Cecilia 2, Tayer 1.

Quarters: 27-18, 55-30. 82-50, 101-72

Second Game

BLU 76—Legaspi 18, Prior 14, Codamon 11, Dimaunahan 9, Roldan 6, Gottenbos 5, Mendez 5, Santos 4, Gatumbato 2, Calo 2.

JOHN O-JUZZ 69—Cayabyab 20, Baguion 13, Napa 11, De Ocampo 8, Santos 7, Olaguer 4, Barbosa 2, Booker 2, Manabat 2, Tolentino 0, Salvador 0, Ferrer 0.

Quarters: 26-21, 44-35, 59-59, 76-69

Golf for Samar set April 12 at Valley course

A GOLF tournament dubbed "Swing for a Cause" will be held April 12 at Valley in Antipolo City to raise funds for the Catbalogan-based Samar National School (SNS).

This was announced yesterday by lawyer Plaridel Bohol II, tournament director. He said a special surprise package of prizes await lucky participants. Tee-off time will be 10 a.m.

Bohol said all Samareños and residents of Catbalogan now based in Metro Manila are welcomed to join the day-long tournament and be of help to SNS. The SNS, he said, is celebrating its 90th foundation day and general alumni homecoming from April 22 to 28. Education Secretary Raul S. Roco will be the guest of honor and speaker during the grand alumni night on April 27. He will be introduced by Rep. Antonio "Eddie" Nachura.

Honorees of this year's celebration who will be feted with a testimonial dinner on April 25 will be the silver jubilarian class of 1977 and golden jubilarian class of 1952 led by former Leyte Congressman Sergio F.A. Apostol, presently the chair, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine National Oil Company.

Bohol called on all SNS alumni to help the school, which is in need of basic facilities such as arm chairs, textbook and teachers' manuals, overhead projector for science classes, among others.

For more details, the host class secretariat may be contacted at 921-0328 or 416-5483.

Kagitingan beats Villamor

KAGITINGAN overwhelmed the opposition with its well-balanced attack, winning the Jungolf Interclub championship by a hefty 17 strokes over Villamor recently at the Manila Golf Club.

Davao eyes 3rd title

DAVAO'S lady booters bid for a third straight title as the 6th National Women's Championship unwraps tomorrow at the Philsports field in Pasig City and the Ateneo turf in Quezon City

Eleven other teams from all over the country will try to spoil Davao's ambition in the tourney which ends on April 14.

These are Alumnae Football Club representing the National Capital Region, Baguio City, Laguna Selection, SLPC Laboratory High School (Quezon province), San Vicente National High School (Camarines Norte, Masbate City. University of St. La salle (Negros Occidental), Dumaguete Football Club (Negros Oriental), University of San Carlos (Cebu), Ateneo de Zamboanga and Rizal.

Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad, PFP general secretary Miguel Melchor Villadolid and Philippine Ladies' Football Association founder Cristy Ramos will grace the 1:30 p.m. opening ceremony at the Philsports pitch.

The teams will be divided into three groups in the elimination stage. The top squad in each group plus the best second team will advance to the crossover semifinals, with the winners disputing the title.

The draw to determine the groupings will be made during the managers' meeting at 5 p.m. today at the PFF conference room in the Philsports building. Rachelle delos Reyes, the Davao Selection, is the early favorite to rule the event organized by the PFF.

France, US, Russia, Argentina advance

LONDON—Fabrice Santoro outlasted Bohdan Ulihrach in a five-set final match on Sunday to put defending champion France into the semifinal of the Davis Cup.

After Jiri Novak had followed up his victory over Nicolas Escude with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Sebastien Grosjean to keep Czech hopes alive at 2-2, Santoro clinched a French victory despite throwing away a two sets lead.

The United States took an unbeatable 3-1 lead over Spain after Andy Roddick defeated Alberto Martin 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 on grass in Houston, Texas.

Russia completed a 4-1 victory over Sweden in Moscow, while Argentina advanced by edging Croatia 3-2 in Buenos Aires when Gaston Gaudio topped Ivo Karlovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in their quarterfinal's last match. *AP*

Danding co-host of Mandaluyong derby tonight

A BIG group of well-known gamefowl breeders from Negros Occidental will challenge their counterparts in Metro Manila when the 8th Ucap Bumble Bee Balbina/Roadmaster 7-Cock Derby gets under way today at Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug.

Derby hosts are former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and his longtime *sabong* partner Pete Rodriguez, team manager of the Balbina Group.

Among the Negros cockers seeing action are Elwin Javelosa, Otic Geroso, Boy Nilo Lizares, Danilo Hinlo, Nene Abello, Al Garcia, Arnold Mendoza.

Saipan cocker Jun Marasigan, one of three champions in the 2002 Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby in January, is also competing.

Meanwhile, the 9th Ucap San Pedro GP Bacolod Group 7-Cock Derby fires off on April 16 and 18 with Jet Fernando, Ramon Mansenares and the Bacolod Group as hosts.

Interested parties, call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Ray of hope

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT was a perfect weekend for Philippine sports. The reason being that we won our Davis Cup tie against Kuwait.

It was not so much over the way we scored the victory, which was not really that convincing. It was more of the fact that we won than anything, the truth of triumph being almost the crux of all competitions.

You win by either a single point or 50 points in basketball, it won't really matter that much.

You win either by a stroke or 10 strokes in golf, it won't really matter that much.

You win either by a first round knockout or a points verdict in boxing, it won't really matter that much.

If anything, the drama behind each victory will be merely gravy.

For, at the end of the day, what matters is the outcome: victory. Winning is such sweet syrup it drowns out even the littlest taste of bitterness in it, if ever there is one.

The country had been touted to rout Kuwait, not really known for tennis excellence. Like many countries in Asia, Kuwait's national pastime is also football. But even though basketball is our passion, tennis has remained a romance. To us, the racket game is like childhood: it doesn't die with adulthood. Height is not a major factor: unlike basketball, you don't really need height to win in tennis.

Felicisimo Ampon is the eternal model.

Getting the monicker "The Mighty Mite" of world tennis because he was barely five feet tall (or short?), Ampon was, and still is, the reason the game has become almost permanently etched in our hearts. It was Ampon's exploits in the Fifties that have kept the fires burning. Without Ampon, perhaps there would be no tennis tenacity that we could proudly speak of when it came to the Filipino's love for the game.

It was not a breast-beating, 3-2 victory our Davis Cuppers had pulled off last weekend. As I said, the Kuwaitis were not expected to win in the first place. To them, tennis is but a hobby.

But still, I see a ray of hope. Philippine tennis is not about to quit and surrender. Col. Buddy Andrada, the tennis head, had proved his detractors wrong. Hey, sir, why not salute Adelo Abadia for a job well done? I have just done my own saluting, sir.

The 25-year-old Abadia, playing in his fourth Davis Cup, beat with ease Mossad Al Jazzaf in the deciding fifth match for the clincher. The score: 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

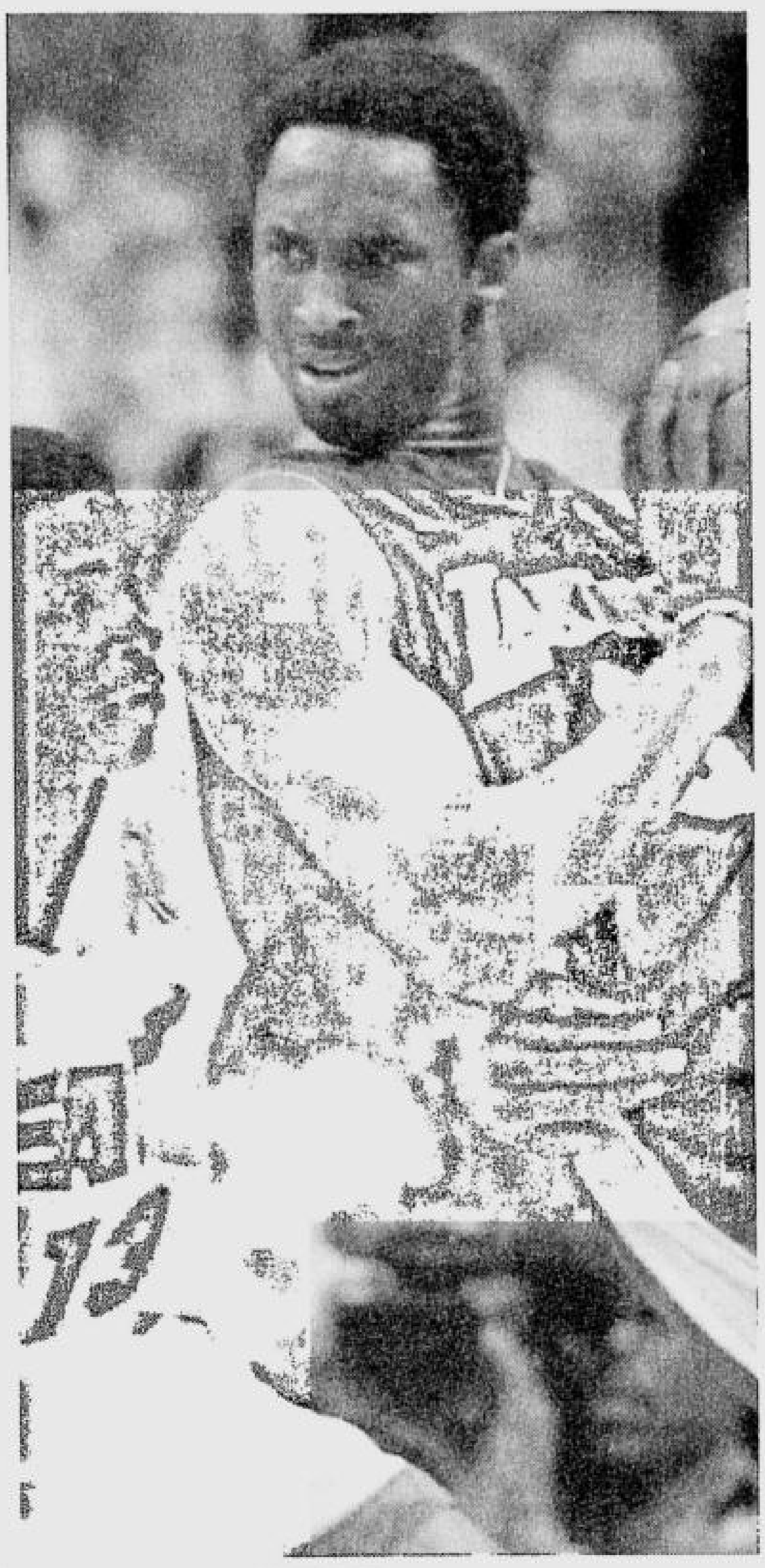
Had Abadia lost, it would have been the summit of embarrassment for Philippine tennis. You see, Jazzaf is a raw teener, a 17-year-old seeing only his second Davis Cup.

Got the drift?

But again, this is not to belittle the triumph. As I have always maintained, a win is a win is a win. A rose by any name will always smell sweet.

And so to Abadia and his teammates Johnny Arcilla, Joseph Victorino and Michael Mora III, I offer to each one of you a warm handshake. To non-playing captain Johnny Jose, himself a many-time Davis Cupper with memorable victories of his own, here's a glass.

Rout or no rout, you all did the country proud.



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (right) attempts to drive past Miami Heat guard Kendall Gill (13) in the fourth quarter yesterday in Miami. The Lakers won, 96-88. Returning Shaquille O'Neal scored 40 points as he pushed Miami nearer to elimination. COMPLETE RESULTS: Philadelphia 89, Milwaukee 87; Toronto 94, Indiana 84; L.A. Lakers 96, Miami 88; Boston 102, New Jersey 90; Sacramento 116, New York 82; L.A. Clippers 97, Denver 75. AP

Law student carries QC to chess victory

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Rex Ami, a part-time chess player, went two-for-two in the finals to carry Quezon City A to a title romp over dethroned champion Mandaluyong A Sunday night at the close of the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities chess championship at the Highlander Hotel here.

Ami, playing board three, scored a critical 55-move win over Rustom Tolentino to secure a draw for QC A in the second playoff match and preserve a 4.5-3.5 decision over Mandaluyong A.

It was Ami's second straight win over Tolentino in the finals.

"I knew I needed to win this because if we ended up tied, Mandaluyong will retain the crown," said Ami who is taking up law at the Baguio Colleges Foundation in Baguio City.

The 26-year-old Ami, playing white, won a pawn in the middlegame of what started as a Queen's Gambit match, and nursed the material advantage to victory.

The first two boards ended in draws with Grandmasters Eugene Torre and Joey Antonio settling for a friendly draw after 16 moves of a Trompovsky.

North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, who co-hosted the National Chess Federation of the Philippines event with Kidapawan Mayor Luis Malaluan, handed out the prizes to the winners.

SPORTSWATCH

Mountaineers, outdoors enthusiasts gather

IN commemoration of the 2002 International year of mountains, Globe Adventure Club, Mountaineering Exploration Society of Adamson University and Sang-at Salung Outdoor Club will host the 23rd Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines Inc. annual climb in Nueva Vizcaya on April 16-21. The MFPI Annual Congress is a gathering of mountaineers and outdoors enthusiasts. Every year, they gather to renew their love for the environment, rekindle their age-old spirit of camaraderie and take part in the socially relevant and full-filled activities. Aside from awareness and preservation of the environment this year, the congress will also focus on the life and culture of the indigenous tribe of Nueva Vizcaya. For more information, log on to http://www.23rdrdmfpicongressclim.org.ph

Rizal stadium table tennis venue

THE FIRST Tatap National Table Tennis Selection kicks off on April 15-21 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. The top participants in five different divisions—men's singles, women's singles, boys' singles 15-and-under, and girls' singles 15-and-under—will automatically join the national team. Registration fee is P200 for men's and women's singles and P100 for boys' and girls' 15-and-under. Interested parties may send their application forms to Rm. 203 Administration Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, P. Ocampo Street Malate, Manila or through fax no. 404-1470. For more information, call Tatap office at 522-1885.

New footwear debuts at Fashion Week

CLIMACOOL™, adidas' footwear innovation featuring a 360o ventilation system, makes its Philippine debut at the Philippine Fashion Week extravaganza on April 11. Through the introduction of new, breathable materials in all areas of the shoe, ClimaCool™ allows consumers' feet to "feel the breeze." The ClimaCool™ concept was born and developed within the adidas innovation team (a.i.t.). The goal was to develop a functional shoe that featured a complete ventilation system. At the adidas Global Test Center in Scheinfeld, Germany, the ClimaCool™ range was evaluated with respect to temperature, moisture management, stability and cushioning. Tests comparing ClimaCool™ to conventional footwear proved that ClimaCool™ shoes kept feet 20 percent cooler and drier.

Exalta Superio reaches Visayas

CARIGARA—The Nissan Exalta GS Superio team, which is going on an island-hopping odyssey for 30 days in the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon, is on the right track despite difficulty in getting in touch with the rally's secretariat in Quezon City owing to the lack of cell sites.

With a 1,097-kilometer reading in the Goodyear odometer after being flagged off at the Eastwood City in Pasig at noon on Friday, the powerful but fuel efficient 1.6-liter engine car with an automatic transmission that changes gear without missing a heartbeat is raring to show more.

After surviving the bad roads of Quezon and Bicol, the Exalta made a ferry crossing on board the Maharlika 4 en route to the picturesque San Juanico Bridge on Saturday night.

At 9 a.m. Sunday, Philtranco-Leyte area manager Arnie Obsanga signed the team's proof of passage in downtown Tacloban before leaving two hours later for its first major assault of the Visayas via Ormoc, Baybay, Sogod, Liloan and Maasin.

In the Queen City of the South, the team was met by officials of Nissan-Cebu and the local media for lunch and a question-and-answer session.

MJC starts 6-day race week

MANILA Jockey Club jumpstarts its six-day race week tonight with an explosive opening card of 9-races propped up by a hefty carryover amount of P827,558.19 in the popular Winner-Take-All (WTA) event.

Horse racing aficionados are expected to troop to the San Lazaro Hippodrome and MJC's more than 220 Off-Track Betting (OTB) sites today to mark the start of a weeklong program of races capped by the P1-million PCSO Grand Championship Race on Sunday.

"More than the added incentive of a huge carryover amount in the Winner-Take-All, we believe that the quality and competitiveness of our race cards would provide the thrill and excitement expected by our growing number of regular patrons," noted MJCI president and chief executive lawyer Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

Highlight of the six-day race program would be the running of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Grand Championship Race, a P1-million event exclusive to graduates of last year's PCSO Sweepstakes races.

The first of two championship races will feature 4-year-old and up Sweepstakes race veterans, including early favorite Staunch Ally, 2001 Champion 3-year-old Filly Sky Hawk, Sweepstakes Race winners Family Task and Holy King as well as Kitty Hawk and Hostile Witness.

Four-year-old colt Staunch Ally, owned and bred by Marho President Aristeo Puyat, shot to instant prominence recently following his surprise victory over champion galloper Wind Blown in the Philracom Commissioner's Cup at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The noted speedball is to be ridden by jockey Dominador H. Borbe Jr. for the 1,500-meter journey carrying top weight of 56 kg.

Winner of the featured race is set to receive a guaranteed purse of P600,000.00, while the three other placers are also assured of P200,000.00; P100,000.00 and P50,000.00 in prize money.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Frankie Miñoza tallied a five-under-par 283 to rule the $200,000 Taiwan Open in Taipei. Also today in 1990, Pasig beat Philab, 302, to win the 5th Paba youth championship at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

La Salle-Lipa stages Stallion Cup golfest

THE DE LA SALLE Lipa High School Batch '77 will stage the First Silver Stallion Cup Golf Tournament on April 12 at the Club Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas.

All alumni and friends of De La Salle Lipa are invited in the event which stakes a four-stroke Aura Classic Kawasaki Scooter and a Dream Satellite TV system as hole-in-one prizes.

For information, please call the De La Salle Lipa Batch 77 Secretariat at 7215049 and 7260673. Tournament organizers are expecting at least 300 guests and participants.

The tournament was created to put up the seed money for the Brother Jaime Hilario Learning Community—the free night school department of De La Salle Lipa.

The event is sponsored by Smart Simply Amazing, Orient Day Spa, Mitsubishi Trium, Landtrade Properties and Management Inc. in cooperation with Petron BPI Mastercard, Sustagen Premium, SC Johnson and official radio station Magic 89.9.

Urban Hunt 2002 registration on

URBAN adventure buffs have until Friday to apply for a slot in one of three elimination dates of the Clorets Urban Hunt 2002.

Applicants may apply via the web at www.pfizer.com.ph or at email cloretsurbanhunt@yahoo.com.

Others may go directly to the AB Communications on the 20th floor of the Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Inquiries are also entertained at 3030780 or 303683.

Only 30 pairs will qualify for each of the three elimination dates set on April 27 and May 4 and 11. The top 10 from each of those qualifying runs will advance to the finals on May 25.

In the finals, the 30 qualifiers will vie for the top prize of P100,000. Second place is worth P25,000 and third P15,000.

Each team will be composed of two members regardless of gender as long as they are 18 or older.

Object of the Clorets Urban Hunt 2002 is for a team to seek Clorets packs stacked in strategic spots in Metro Manila and do challenging tasks. The participants will only be given a stipend of P250, which they are expected to use for fare and food.

They are not allowed to bring any communication equipment. Each team will be wards, who would record their every movement on video, and marshals who would handle their destinations.

How to get to these Clorets packs would depend on the participants' common sense, logic and knowledge of the quickest way to get to a particular area in the metropolis.

Dynamic Dy

THE BIG game fishing season opens in a few days (April 12-14) with the Amado Dy sponsored fishing tournament in San Vicente, Cagayan. For the serious big game angler, veterans and aspiring ones alike, all roads will lead to the PGFF Fishing Camp in Barangay Santa Ana where one finds the last kilometer post in the Northern Luzon highway system.

COMMENTARY

By Vic Vic Villavicencio

For these guys no distance is so great they will not find a way to get there. By plane to Tuguegarao as the first leg of the trip, then by land to San Vicente, or over ten hours by land, these are just means to an end—great fishing. For sailfish, maybe even a marlin or two, dorado, barracuda, jacks.

The PGFF maintains a number of outrigger bancas at the camp for the members and guests, and there are more available from local fishermen. But don't be surprised if along the way you pass a 4x4 pulling a trailer with a Boston whaler or similar craft on it. That is surely one of the increasing number of anglers who like the convenience of fishing on their very own boats.

That San Vicente, Cagayan is the billfishing capital of the Philippines can no longer be denied. From personal experience we can say that the chances of landing a marlin in San Vicente are even better than Kona, Hawaii. And next only to the Great Barrier Reefs of Australia. My informal finding: one every five days in Kona; one every day in the Great Barrier Reefs, and one every three days in Cagayan. That is something tourism promotion officials might like to consider.

And now we would like to pay tribute to the sponsor of the forthcoming fishing tournament—Amado A. Dy.

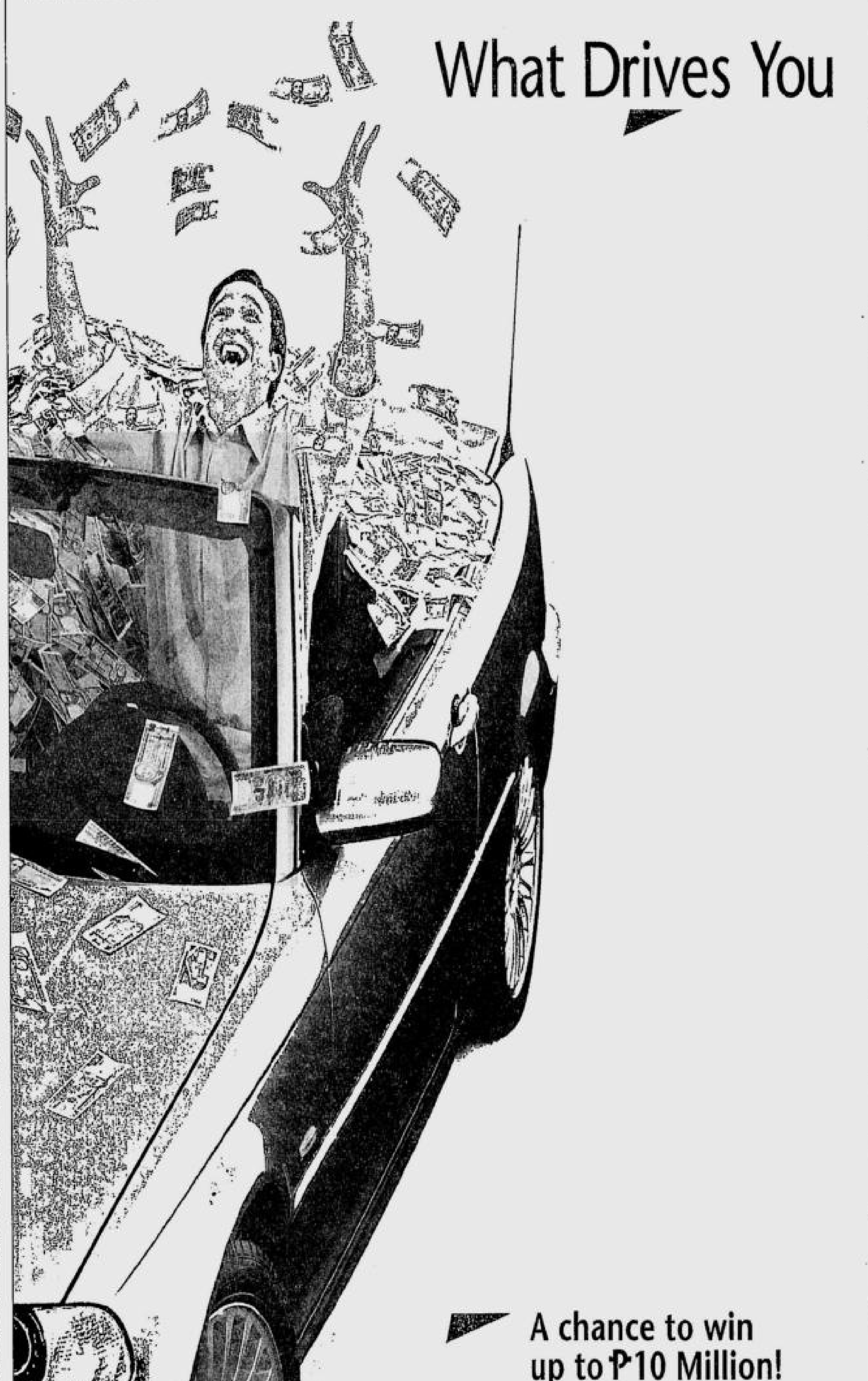
Sportsman of the unquestionable caliber, Amado is a well-rounded angler who has fished with the best at some of the most prestigious fishing spots all over the world, including Asia, Hawaii and Australia. And yet he can also be seen in Caliraya, or Calatagan, and even the *hito* pond of Nayong Pilipino casting a line, or simply enjoying the company of those who share his passion for the fishing sport.

We hope the present crop of anglers realize that there is no bigger patron of sport fishing today than Amado. He shows this in countless ways. But none more evident than during the annual year-end get together of anglers when he gives away half a dozen gift certificates of entry fees to any of the monthly PGFF tournaments—at the recipient's choice! As if that were not enough, he also sponsors participation in the annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) for whoever wins the PGFF Angler of the Year title.

With benefactors like Amado A. Dy around, we can all look forward to many, many happy fishing days.

A ChevronTexaco Company
www.caltex.com

What Drives You



A chance to win up to ₱10 Million!

- Get a Scratcha Numba game card for a specified purchase of fuel, lubricants, LPG or Star Mart goodies.
- To win instant cash prizes, scratch off the 3 boxes on the scratch card and match with the weekly winning combinations.
- Or scratch off the raffle box in the same scratch card to reveal the cash prize you can win when you join the raffle draw.
- Win as much as ₱10 million in the June 30, 2002 grand draw!

Up to ₱45 Million at stake!

Hurry! Promo period is from March 15, 2002 to June 15, 2002.

SCRATCHA NUMBA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0245 Series of 2002.

What Drives You CALTEX

SCRATCHA NUMBA

PROMO MECHANICS

1. Get a game card for every ₱300 single or accumulated receipt purchase of fuel; ₱100 single or accumulated receipt purchase of lubricants ; ₱100 single receipt purchase at Star Mart; or ₱250 single receipt purchase of LPG.
2. There are two (2) ways to win cash prizes:

   Instant Cash:

   a. Scratch off the 3 boxes on the scratch card to reveal the 3-digit number combination. Each digit is printed in words at the bottom.
   b. Match the 3-digit no. combination with the winning *Caltex Scratcha Numba* combination announced every Monday, Wednesday and Friday between March 18 & June 7, 2002 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star and posted in all participating Caltex stations. The March 29 (Good Friday) announcement will be moved to March 31 (Easter Sunday). Announcements in local dailies will be made every Saturday within the same period, except on March 30 (Black Saturday).*
   c. If the number combination on your game card matches any of the announced winning number combinations in exactly the same order (Ex. 018 does not match 081), you win exactly the cash equivalent of the 3-digit number printed on the card. (Ex. If your number combination is 999 you win ₱999 or if your number combination is 020 you win ₱20)
   d. Cash prizes can be claimed at participating Caltex stations from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, upon surrender of the winning game card.
   e. Game cards are subject to validation by the authorized Caltex station representative. Only winning cards with authenticated security code will be honored. Crumpled, defaced and torn game cards or those with scratched security code ("void if scratched" box) will be disqualified.
   f. Cash prizes must be claimed within 60 days from the end of the promo period. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., with prior approval of DTI.
   g. Employees of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., participating Caltex stations, McCann-Erickson (Phils.), Inc., Caltex promotions agencies, suppliers, and all their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the instant promo.

   Raffle Draw:

   a. Scratch off the raffle box on the scratch card to reveal the cash prize you can win in the raffle. The amount printed on it should be any of the ff: *₱1 million, ₱5 million* or *₱10 million* only.
   b. Indicate/write your name, address, tel. no. and/or cell. no. on the raffle stub and sign it. Then drop it in drop boxes located at any of the participating Caltex stations.
   c. There will be one (1) raffle draw with (3) winners. If your raffle entry is drawn, you can win exactly the same amount indicated on your drawn winning raffle entry. You can win as much as ₱10 million only.
   d. A customer can win only once in the raffle draw. If a name is drawn more than once, the customer shall get the bigger prize.
   e. Last day of submission of raffle entries is on June 15, 2002 at 12:00 pm. The Raffle draw will be held on June 30, 2002. The venue and time shall be submitted to DTI and announced two (2) weeks before the draw.
   f. All winners will be notified through registered mail.
   g. Raffle prizes can be claimed upon presentation of two (2) proper identifications (e.g., driver's license, passport, etc.) and the notification letter.
   h. Raffle prizes can be claimed at 7/F 6750 Ayala Ave., 1226 Makati City, Philippines from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm only.
   i. Raffle prizes must be claimed within 60 days upon notification. All unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., with prior approval of DTI.
   j. The 20% withholding tax on prizes worth ₱1,000,000.00 will be paid for by Caltex (Philippines) Inc. For prizes exceeding ₱1,000,000.00, the winner shall shoulder the 20% withholding tax.
   k. Employees of Caltex (Philippines) Inc., participating Caltex stations, McCann-Erickson (Phils.), Inc., Caltex promotions agencies, suppliers and all their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.
3. Promo period is from March 15, 2002 to June 15, 2002.

*Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0245 Series of 2002.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◆ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

2 RP boxers clash for gold

HELSINKI, Finland—Violito Payla and Harry Tanamor beat their respective opponents to arrange an All-Filipino title clash in the flyweight division of the 21st Gee Bee International Amateur Boxing Championships here Saturday.

Payla crushed Finland's Pasi Silvennoinea, 18-4, while Tanamor, a lightfly who had to climb one rung after his division was canceled, defeated Russian Andrei Bogdabov, 18-3, in the semifinals.

Featherweight Roel Laguna and lightwelterweight Romeo Brin also made it to the finals, assuring the 6-man Philippine team of one gold, three silver and one bronze medals.

PCHelp COMPUTER SERVICE
IN HOME & IN OFFICE COMPUTER REPAIR
Honest and Experienced Technicians
✓ DIAGNOSTICS
✓ UPGRADES
✓ NETWORKING
✓ NEW COMPUTER SET UP
✓ MAINTENANCE
✓ PRINTER/MONITOR REPAIRS
✓ SOFTWARE PROBLEMS/ INSTALLATION
LOWEST PRICES JOBS GUARANTEED
727-2222

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Bellsouth Classic, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

The Masters Official Films - 2000 at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: MLB - Seattle Mariners vs Oakland Athletics at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Best of World Pool Trickshot Masters at 7 p.m. on ESPN

SNOOKER: Premier Snooker League 2002 at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Talk N Text seeks 8th win

SMB's Strothers, Bennett poised to get ax from Bernardino

Teams	W	L
Talk N Text	7	1
Purefoods	7	2
Coca-Cola	7	3
Red Bull	5	3
FedEx	5	4
Sta. Lucia	5	4
Hapee-RP	4	5
Alaska	4	5
San Miguel	4	5
Selecta-RP	3	7
Ginebra	2	7
Shell	1	8

GAME TODAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
6 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text

TALK N TEXT had been merciless in crushing the Alaska Aces to the tune of 84-67 during the weekend.

The Phone Pals are expected to duplicate that demolition job against Batang Red Bull tonight in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

If they succeed, it would be Talk N Text's eighth straight victory.

The Thunder are still feeling the jarring effects of back-to-back setbacks to San Miguel Beer and Coca-Cola, debacles that somehow diminished the 2001 Commissioner's Cup champions' esteem.

Meanwhile, San Miguel imports Lamont Strothers and Mario Bennett are expected to draw fines from Commissioner Jun Bernardino for shouting invectives and chiding game officials after Sunday's SMB-Sta. Lucia game. The Realtors won, 73-65.

Strothers felt he was fouled while driving for the hoop with seven seconds left in the game.

They refused to calm down despite being slapped a technical foul each that delayed the outcome of the game for almost five minutes. Strothers and Bennett were later ushered out of the court.

The Beermen pricked Red Bull's pride with an 89-67 romp two weeks back before the Tigers routed the Thunder, 96-77, after a week-long holiday break.

Tony Lang, chief architect of Red Bull's Commissioner's Cup crown, had a disappointing debut for the Thunder as he was totally outplayed by former teammate Ron Hale during their match against the Tigers.

In contrast, the Phone Pals are enjoying a winning spree, beating their last seven opponents in convincing fashion.

The Phone Pals own a pair of lethal imports in Gerald Honeycutt and Richie Frahm.

STROTHERS: Disrespect for referees.

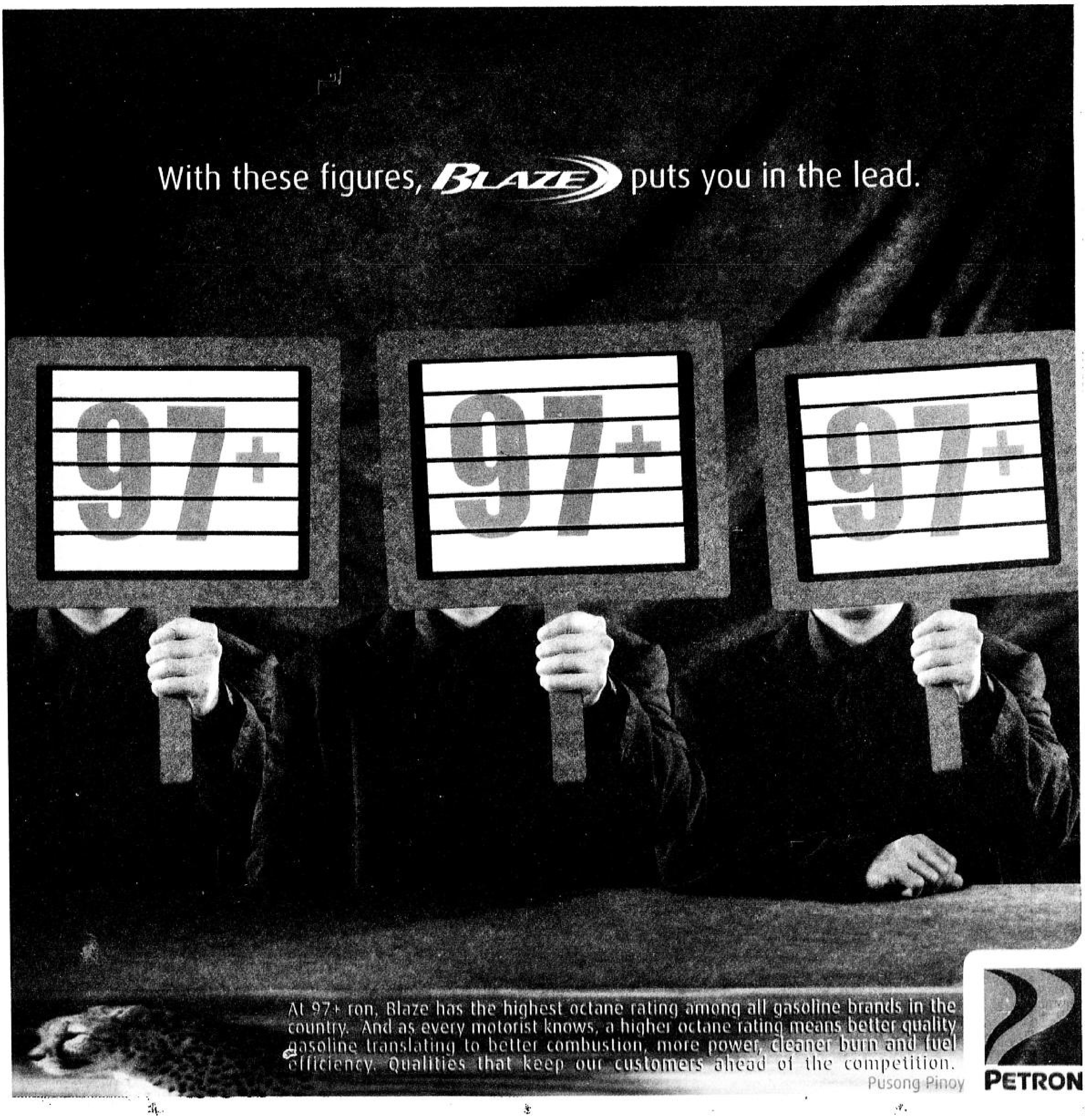
FILE PHOTO

Pak, Goosen prevail

LOS ANGELES—Se Ri Pak, who says she wants to be on the same level with Annika Sorenstam, was one shot better than the LPGA's dominant player. Pak, a 24-year-old player from South Korea, beat Sorenstam to win the Office Depot Championship on Sunday, denying the 31-year-old Swede her second comeback victory in a row in the tournament. In Duluth, Georgia, Retief Goosen won the BellSouth Classic, a dismal start to put away Phil Mickelson of the United States and claim a four-stroke victory over Sweden's Jesper Parnevik. Goosen closed with a 2-under-par 70 in difficult conditions on the TPC at Sugarloaf, finishing at 16-under 272. Parnevik, who posted 65 early in the day for a 276, wasn't even around when the winner finished.

HOSHO®
Exclusive Patent Owner, Manufacturer & Distributor
PLAZA BUSINESS VENTURE CORP.
Stops Gas Leaks, Prevents Fire, Protects Lives
LPG SAFETY DEVICES
Satisfied Users: NAIA Terminal II Wendy's PLDT Ayala Center Toyota Sulpicio Lines SM Jollibee Nestle ABS-CBN Chowking St. Luke's Robinsons PGH La Salle Red Ribbon Shangri-La Coco Beach Rustan's Ateneo
Beware of Imitations!
For All Brands of LPG
One Year Warranty
Lifetime Service/Upgrades
24/7 Customer Support
Cowason Bldg. 455 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. QC (near corner Banawe St. across PCSO)
743-1615 • 749-0112
743-0109 • 712-0541
24-hr. 4554795 E-mail: hosho@gslink.com
Also Available:
Gas Meter, Solenoid Valve, Smoke/Heat Detectors
Electronic Gas Detector, REGO/Fisher Regulators
LPG Tank, G.I./B.I. Pipes/Fittings, Stainless Hose
Other Services Offered:
Gas Piping Installations/Gas Line Renovations
Repair Worn-Out/Cleaning of Kitchen Equipments
Industrial Use
Gas Leak Detector
Commercial Use
Automatic Shut-Off
Household Use
LPG
Patent No. 8332
Main Line HOSHO LPG Safety Device
Second Stage Regulator
First Stage Regulator
Secondary HOSHO LPG Safety Device
Patent No. 8022
Safety First HOSHO

Dress up your 2002 REVO • ADVENTURE • CROSSWIND
BUY FACTORY PRICE A.U.V. • S.U.V. • VANS • PICK-UP
Now Available:
ISUZU CROSSWIND X.U.V. CONVERSION PACKAGE PROMO
P25,000.00 only
1st 10 Customers
ADVENTURE ACCESSORIES:
Bulbar, Side Bar, Rear Bar, Bumper Overider, Chrome Mirror, Chrome Door Handle, Chrome Tail Lite, Trunk Lid Cover, Rear Spoiler, Roof Rail
TOYOTA REVO SPORTS RUNNER (SR)
CONVERSION PACKAGE PROMO P18,000.00
Two-Tone Painting P 5,000 only
AVAIL PACKAGE PROMO !!! WRAP AROUND STAINLESS BULL BARS P 17,000 only (FRONT, SIDE, REAR)
ALSO AVAILABLE:
• ADVENTURE SUPER SPORT CONVERSION P 25,000
• HI-LANDER X-TRM CONVERSION P 30,000
• FUEGO SPORTS (4X4 LOOK) CONVERSION P 25,000
WE WILL BEAT Any Price in town
KILANG
8 22 New York St. Cubao, Q.C.
PASAR MOBIL ACCESSORIES
1750 Alabang-Zapote Rd Almanza I, Las Piñas City
413-8000 • 413-8077 • 411-9075 • 0916-4358799



With these figures, BLAZE puts you in the lead.

At 97+ ron, Blaze has the highest octane rating among all gasoline brands in the country. And as every motorist knows, a higher octane rating means better quality gasoline translating to better combustion, more power, cleaner burn and fuel efficiency. Qualities that keep our customers ahead of the competition.

Pusong Pinoy

PETRON

LOSING YOUR HAIR?
Seek professional help at Svenson International.
Call 372-6631

Peeved over pet, man shot dead

RENATO Cariño, 45, was reportedly drunk when he yelled at his wife to keep their dog in a cage so it wouldn't bite anyone in Las Piñas City late Sunday night. The couple's noisy quarrel and the dog's barking annoyed neighbor Jose Rey, 39, who shot Cariño in the right arm and the left side of the body. PO1 Eduardo Correa arrested Rey. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Color-coding for buses on Edsa

Decline noted in number of passengers; Manila to phase out pedicabs

By Alcuin Papa
and Jerome Aning

HAPPY days might soon be over for public utility air-conditioned buses plying Edsa as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority announced yesterday that it might reimpose the color-coding scheme on these buses to reduce the number of rush-hour vehicles on the Caloocan-to-Pasay road.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday said he had noticed a decline in the number of commuters riding air-conditioned buses along Edsa during rush hours. He said he would meet with the bus owners and "give them the option to recall some of their vehicles during the rush hour."

If the owners would not be agreeable to this, the MMDA would no longer exempt their buses from the agency's color-coding scheme, according to Abalos.

"If they would not agree, then I think it is high time to reconsider color-coding for buses," Abalos said.

He said the unregulated operation of pedicabs also causes traffic congestion not only in Manila but also in many other parts of the metropolis.

A few years ago, the Unified Vehicle Volume Reduction Program, more popularly known as the "color-coding" scheme," covered buses. But the MMDA lifted the ban to accommodate the large number of bus riders.

But with the opening of the Metro Rail Transit on Edsa, the number of bus commuters has considerably decreased.

"During rush hour, I see that most of the buses plying Edsa are not full so let's see if we can reduce the volume of vehicles this way (through color-coding)," Abalos said.

In Manila, the days of pedicabs may also be numbered. The city government will soon be phasing them out even as it looks for an alternative source of income for the drivers and operators that will be displaced by the move.

"Driving a pedicab is very dangerous not only for the driver but (also) for the passenger," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said in the city government's monthly publication "Maynila Ngayon."

He also said driving a pedicab for a living is "not humane and indicates social disparity."

Atienza noted that rickshaws—carriages pulled by humans—had long been phased out in China after the ruling communist party considered the practice as inhuman.

But Atienza said he understands pedicabs could not be immediately banned until City Hall finds an alternative employment for the drivers and operators.

He said he has assigned a team from the Pamantasang ng Lungsod ng Maynila to conduct a study of the phaseout plan and to look for alternative livelihood for those who would be affected.

Hundreds of pedicabs ply many of Manila's streets, especially those not serviced by bigger public vehicles.

Atienza has ordered the compulsory registration of all pedicabs in Manila. He said the drivers would be asked to undergo a seminar on traffic rules and road courtesy before they would be given permits to ply their routes.

He said pedicab drivers should also follow ordinances that regulate their movements.

Teacher's rapist sentenced to 40 years in prison

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PASAY City court has sentenced a man to as long as 40 years in prison for robbing and raping a teacher under a bridge in the city two years ago.

Judge Porfirio Macaraeg found Francis Malabanan guilty of the special complex crime of robbery with rape and ordered him to pay the woman P105,000 in damages.

The woman, a teacher in Makati City, was waiting for a service shuttle in Villamor at about 5 a.m. on Feb. 11, 2000 when Malabanan and an unidentified companion approached her and took her jewelry and other personal belongings at knife point, according to the 10-page decision of Judge Macaraeg.

The two men then dragged the woman toward the side of the road just beneath a bridge where they took turns in raping her, court records showed.

The woman managed to escape after she kicked the knife out of Malabanan's hand, and she ran for help. Malabanan's companion is still at large.

ERIK ARAZAS

COOL!

Teeners cool down with a water hose on a street in Las Piñas City, while the temperature continues to shoot up as the usual summer water crisis threatens the metropolis. Authorities warn that the water crisis will peak in three years' time.

Reporter loses P10,000 to 'Salisi Gang'

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MANILA Standard reporter lost nearly P10,000 to a suspected "Salisi Gang" member while the reporter was eating at a Jollibee outlet in Ermita, Manila.

The fast-food shop is just in front of the National Bureau of Investigation and within walking distance of the Ermita police station and the Western Police District headquarters, both on UN Avenue.

The Ermita police car that was supposed to accompany the victim, Evelyn Z. Macairan, to look for the culprit arrived at the WPD headquarters 45 minutes after she reported the incident.

Macairan said she lost her green bag while she was eating in the fast-food shop at about 6:45 p.m. Sunday.

She said she lost her brother's 3210 Nokia phone worth P4,000; P1,000 in cash, a P3,500 tape recorder, important documents, ATM cards, and diskettes.

Macairan said she and Philippine Star reporters Cecile Suerte-Felipe and Shiela Crisostomo were supposed to attend the wake of the father of Newsbreak reporter Aries Rufo but they decided to have dinner first.

Macairan said that while she was eating, she realized that her bag was missing.

She said there was no security guard at the restaurant when she lost her bag.

"It was only when we returned with the policemen that I saw a security guard," she said.

Macairan and the two other reporters went to the WPD headquarters to report the loss.

They were supposed to board a patrol car of the Ermita police station to look around in the vicinity of the food outlet. But they said they had to wait for 45 minutes before the car arrived. Police said their car had a flat tire.

MMDA keeps hands off Navotas landfill issue

By Alcuin Papa

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority is keeping its hands off the controversial multimillion-peso garbage facility in Navotas, whose residents are protesting the project.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos said in a telephone interview that he is leaving the issue to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

He said the Navotas project would have to pass the scrutiny of the DENR before it is issued an environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

"If the DENR says it's safe, then who are we to prevent the construction of the facility," Abalos explained.

He said the proponents of the facility already submitted an environmental impact study. According to the findings, the facility would be environmentally sound and safe, he said.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said the project is covered by Republic Act No. 9003, which allows local government units to use "controlled disposal facilities" for a period of five years from the effectivity of the law.

Navotas residents, mostly fishpond owners backed by leftist groups, have said the facility would poison the Navotas waters and eventually kill the local fishing industry.

Abalos said the residents "will have all the chance to air their protest before the DENR."

Navotas Mayor Tobias Tiangco had said the facility, which would begin operation later this month, would be safe for the environment.

In cooperation with the Manila city government, Navotas is converting a 10-hectare fishpond in Barangay Tanza into a "controlled garbage facility" to accommodate 2,000 tons of garbage daily.

Tiangco's office emphasized that the facility would accommodate only garbage from Navotas and from Manila's transfer station at Pier 18.

Navotas resident Salvador Monroy said he and other residents fear the garbage might spill into Manila Bay while being transported by barges.

Monroy said he filed a formal complaint with the local government, saying that "ecology-wise," it would not be advisable to turn a fishpond into a garbage facility. He warned that garbage might overflow from the former fishpond during the rainy season.

Tiangco stressed that no garbage would fall off the barges and there would be no leak at the facility.

Natural impermeable clay walls will protect the controlled disposal facility, according to the mayor.

These walls, together with other protective barriers, will prevent leakage.

The facility is 3.7 kilometers from the nearest residential area in Tanza, Tiangco pointed out.

"Those who are opposing it do not base their arguments on technical or scientific grounds," he said in a statement yesterday. "I am sure that they are being used as pawns by people who have a political stake in this issue."

He noted that the protesting groups could not present any alternative to the project. "If they have a better idea, then they should come out with it," he said in his statement.

He said that with the Tanza facility, the town would be able to save at least P30 million per year, since it would not need the services of a contractor to haul garbage from the present transfer station on C4 Road and R10 to its final destination.

The savings would be used to fund municipal development projects, Tiangco said.

He said he would close the transfer station and replace it with the Tanza facility, "which is not along a main road, not in a prime location, is four kilometers from the nearest residential area and is in accordance with the law."

The mayor's statement explained that a buffer zone and litter fence would be built so that the garbage is properly contained.

The waste will be sprayed with organic enzymes so it does not smell. A six-inch soil cover applied daily will be another safety protection against the stench as well as against scavenging birds and animals at the disposal site, he said.

In a media forum last week, a group of Tanza residents asked the MMDA and the DENR to stop Philippine Ecology Systems Corp. (Phileco) from transporting trash to the Navotas facility.

The militant group Pamalakaya and Bayan Muna-Navotas chapter joined the residents in asking the MMDA and the DENR to recall the permit issued by the municipal government to Phileco.

One of the forum speakers, Romy Hidalgo, said the trash to be hauled from Pier 18 was the same garbage "turned away" from Semirara Island last year. ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

Foul play suspected in trader's death

By Alcuin Papa

INVESTIGATORS suspect foul play in the death of a Makati businessman who was found dead in his condominium unit Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Alberto Ruiz de la Rama, 38, single, of the Makati Prime City Condominium in San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Investigator SPO3 Rio Bucalan of the Makati City Police Criminal Investigation Division said a relative found De la Rama's body at about 11 p.m.

The victim had two gunshot wounds in the left side of the chest from his own .45 caliber pistol, police said.

They said the case could not be a simple suicide. An investigator said suicides usually inflict a single gunshot wound, not two, on themselves. Most suicides also point the gun to the head instead of the chest area, other investigators said. De la Rama's relatives have yet to be questioned by police.

Pasay fears Naia transmission lines despite assurance

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NINOY Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 might have a "dark" future if the Manila Electric Co. fails to convince Pasay City residents that the construction of transmission lines in Villamor would not jeopardize their safety.

If the residents are not convinced, the controversial airport project might have no electricity when it opens in December.

The Pasay government has asked Meralco to secure a new environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the construction of transmission lines on the densely populated 12th Street in Barangay Villamor, said Councilor Allan Panaligan, head of the city council's committees on engineering and public works and on patrimony, land use and zoning.

Panaligan said the transmission lines are a key part of the Naia project since 60 percent of the project's 115-kilovolt capacity would supply electricity to the new terminal.

"Without them (transmission lines), how will the terminal operate?" Panaligan told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

But before the DENR could grant an ECC, the giant electric firm would first have to convince hundreds of protesting Villamor residents that the transmission cables were not a health hazard.

In a public hearing last Saturday, Panaligan said Villamor barangay chair Rey Gubatan had already told Meralco and airport officials that the residents would not approve the electric project. In the same hearing, a health department official said there was no concrete proof that the transmission lines posed a health hazard, Panaligan said.

He said the residents feared the electromagnetic field from the lines could cause health problems such as cancer.

Meralco previously secured an ECC for the construction of transmission lines on Sales Street in Villamor, but the Philippine Air Force opposed the project since it would supposedly be dangerous to helicopters taking off and landing in its headquarters, he said.

Canadian visitor robbed by friendly cross-dresser

CANADIAN tourist Joseph Thomas Jones, 64, was strolling in the tourist belt in Ermita, Manila Sunday night when a woman befriended him. At least she looked like a woman, he said.

Jones said that when the stranger started talking, he realized that "she" was a gay man dressed as a woman. Before the foreigner could protest, the cross-dresser grabbed P1,500 in cash from his pant pocket and fled, he said.

Jones, a retired fireman from British Columbia who was staying at the Paragon Tower on Flores Street in Ermita, said he was not able to run after the gay suspect, according to SPO1 Jacinto A. Amor of the Western Police District General Assignment Section. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day St. Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr	ACOUSTIC JIVE	☎634.7696/98
BUMA 8591 Kamagong St. Makati	MOONSTRUCKS DYNA SOULS	896.2116/896.1939
Cowboy Grill Biñan, Laguna	FAT 16 PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049) 511.7268
Cowboy Grill Alabang Las Piñas	SWEETBLOOD KOOLJACKS	BARBIE'S CRADLE APR.23 ☎801.7644
Cowboy Grill Arquiza St. Manila	BARBIE'S CRADLE POWER SURGE/FREEZE	THINKERS W/ JOGRAD 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill Remedios St. Malate	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches Q.C.	BEAT BOX MR. ROXY	BARBIE'S CRADLE APR.16 ☎936.9757
KAMPO 2086 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	LADI CRUSH	☎373.5110
Tia Maria's Jupiter St., Makati City	SOUL AT WORK ON-LINE	MULATTO APR. 25 ☎890.4735
Tia Maria's Remedios cor. Carolina St.	VERSE 2 SPAGHETTI	☎522-0429
Tropical Forest Cafe-Grill-Restaurant	LEAGUE OF CAYUCA	BRING D WHOLE FAMILY & GET A FREE MEAL/400-7438/39

TUESDAY APRIL 09 912-8983

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 CROSS ROADS
2 TIME MACHINE
3 ICE AGE
4 BLADE 2
5 E.T.
6 HARI NG SELDA
7 ITLOG
8 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 BLADE 2
2 E.T.
3 ICE AGE
4 EVIL WOMAN
5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 ITLOG
7 CROSS ROADS
8 TIME MACHINE
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 TIME MACHINE
2 SNAKE CHARMER
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 E.T.
5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 CROSS ROADS
7 ICE AGE
8 BLADE 2
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 ITLOG
11 GOT 2 BELIEVE
12 EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2 ICE AGE
3 EVIL WOMAN
4 CROSS ROADS
5 BLADE 2
6 E.T.
7 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
8 ITLOG
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 GOT 2 BELIEVE
11 TIME MACHINE
12 BLADE 2

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 BLADE 2
2 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 ICE AGE
4 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5 E.T.
6 TIME MACHINE
7 CROSS ROADS
8 ITLOG
9 HARI NG SELDA
10 BLADE 2
11 EVIL WOMAN
12 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 TIME MACHINE
2 BLADE 2
3 ITLOG
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 E.T.
6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 ICE AGE
8 E.T.
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8060889

1 ICE AGE
2 CROSS ROADS
3 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
4 BLADE 2
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 ITLOG
7 HARI NG SELDA
8 E.T.
9 TIME MACHINE
10 EVIL WOMAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313976

1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
4 E.T.
5 13 GHOSTS
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 HARI NG SELDA
8 ICE AGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 CLOSED
3 ICE AGE
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 E.T.
7 CLOSED
8 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 ICE AGE
2 E.T.
3 TIME MACHINE
4 ITLOG
5 CROSS ROADS
6 HARI NG SELDA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 ICE AGE
2 BLADE 2
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ITLOG
3 BLADE 2

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2 E.T.
3 BLADE 2
4 HARI NG SELDA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976996

1 E.T.
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 D-TOX
5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6 ICE AGE

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN! 2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24 HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS • 729-7777

All Digital Sound

G1 Gold GP Grand Prime (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)		GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	1 ICE AGE	4 EVIL WOMAN	1 E.T. RESTORATION	1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO THX
2 THE TIME MACHINE	2 E.T. RESTORATION	5 TIME MACHINE	2 ICE AGE	2 BLADE 2
3 BLADE 2	3 BLADE 2 THX GUARANTEED SEATS	6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	3 BLADE 2	3 ICE AGE
4 ICE AGE		7 CROSS ROADS	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 TIME MACHINE
				5 E.T. RESTORATION

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) BLADE 2
2 (SDDS) TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 GOLD (DTS) E.T.
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CROSS ROADS
6 GOLD (SDDS) COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ICE AGE
8 HARI NG SELDA
9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
10 EVIL WOMAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 RESERVE
5 ITLOG
6 (DTS) TIME MACHINE
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ITLOG
3 BLADE 2

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 BLADE 2
3 ITLOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TIME MACHINE
5 E.T.

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 EVIL WOMAN
2 ITLOG
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 BLADE 2
5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 E.T.
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 E.T.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
2 OCEAN ELEVEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
2 ITLOG
3 SENSUAL

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 ITLOG
A TIME MACHINE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TIME MACHINE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 SNAKE CHARMER
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY) HARI NG SELDA
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
5 EVIL WOMAN
6 ITLOG
7 (DTS) E.T.
8 (SDDS) TIME MACHINE
9 (DOLBY) BLADE 2

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 ITLOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 ITLOG
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 CROSS ROADS
4 (SDDS) TIME MACHINE
5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
7 (DTS) E.T.
8 ICE AGE
9 EVIL WOMAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) TIME MACHINE
2 CROSS ROADS
3 ITLOG
4 ICE AGE
5 (SDDS) COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
6 HARI NG SELDA
7 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
8 E.T.

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 BLADE 2
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 ITLOG
5 (SDDS) E.T.

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 HARI NG SELDA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 HARI NG DELDA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson TEMPTRESS
Lords UOD SA LAMAN
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 BLADE 2
3 ITLOG

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BLADE 2
2 TIME MACHINE
3 ITLOG
4 HARI NG SELDA
5 ICE AGE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ITLOG

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ITLOG

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ITLOG
3 (DTS) E.T.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS) COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
3 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
4 E.T.

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
3 (DTS) E.T.
4 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 BANDITS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DOLBY) D-TOX
4 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) HARI NG SELDA
2 TIME MACHINE
3 ITLOG
4 (DTS) BLADE 2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TIME MACHINE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS) ICE AGE
4 ITLOG
5 E.T.

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 E.T.
3 TIME MACHINE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 E.T.
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 ICE AGE
2 EVA
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 HARI NG SELDA
2 ICE AGE
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) HARI NG SELDA
2 (DTS) ITLOG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 BIBINGKA
2 BANDITS
3 HARI NG SELDA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ICE AGE
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 D-TOX
4 HARI NG SELDA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) ICE AGE
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 (DTS) E.T.
4 TIME MACHINE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING

THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX TIME MACHINE
2 E.T.
3 ICE AGE
4 BLADE 2
5 CROSS ROADS
6 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
7 HARI NG SELDA
8 JOHN Q
9 EVIL WOMAN
10 ITLOG

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 BLADE 2
2 E.T.
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 EVIL WOMAN
5 CROSS ROADS
6 ICE AGE
7 TIME MACHINE

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8780

1 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
2 ICE AGE
3 CROSS ROADS
4 E.T.
5 BLADE 2
6 HARI NG SELDA
7 TIME MACHINE
8 EVIL WOMAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 E.T.
2 ICE AGE
3 EVIL WOMAN
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 BLADE 2
6 CROSS ROADS
7 TIME MACHINE
8 HARI NG SELDA

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 BLADE 2
2 HARI NG SELDA
3 ICE AGE
4 . ITLOG
5 E.T.
6 EVIL WOMAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 JIMMY NEUTRON
4 D-TOX
5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6 RAT RACE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 ICE AGE
3 HARI NG SELDA
4 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
5 EVA
6 E.T.

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270

1 ICE AGE
2 TIME MACHINE
3 E.T.
4 ITLOG
5 CROSS ROADS
6 CROSS ROADS

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

Late Night Screening on April 5 & 6, 2002 Friday & Saturday - 11:00 p.m. @ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

NBN 4 to launch talent search program next month

KOREAN music executive David Shim, president and chief executive officer of Westwood Media in Korea, was in Manila recently to close a co-production deal with local promoter Mark Roces and the National Broadcasting Network (NBN) for "Dream Search," a talent search program that NBN will launch in May.

"We're all excited about this tie-up with David Shim's search that aims to support and promote the Filipino musical artists in the regional and international market," said NBN president and chair Mia Concio. "I'm particularly impressed with his enthusiasm for the Filipino talent."

Likewise, Shim is optimistic about the venture. "Filipinos are very talented and you have a lot of advantages over other music artists in the region," noted Shim. "This is the primary reason we are bringing 'Dream Search' to the Philippines."

According to NBN network manager Joey Isabelo, "Dream Search" is the talent search program that local singers may have been waiting for. At stake is the chance to sign a recording contract with an international label.

Shim was formerly president of EMI Korea and Warner Music Korea. He is also associated with DreamWorks SKG in Hollywood, the company that Steven Spielberg formed along with Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen in 1995.

In a recent interview with Shim during his visit to the NBN Studios, the Korean businessman explained that the search for new talents is an ongoing process in the music business.

"Discovering raw talent is like finding a precious gem," he said. "But it is the process of polishing the gem that is important, so that eventually it becomes a beautiful diamond or ruby. That's all part of the production, the responsibility of the music company to mold these raw talents to become international recording artists."

Inspired by the popular "Star Search" in the US, "Dream Search" started in Korea last year.

Shim started his own talent search program in Korea last year. Similar programs in Japan and Hong Kong followed shortly. Negotiations are now underway in Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

"The Asian market has become very important to the music industry," explained Shim. "Somewhere out there is the future Michael Jackson or Madonna or Britney Spears and all we need to do is find him or her. This is what DreamSearch will do for us."

"Dream Search" is among the new programs that NBN will launch this quarter, including the MBA 2002 Season, PBL 2002 Season, "Eskwela ng Bayan" and the debate program, "Panindigan Mo sa Plaza Miranda."

SHIM

Too much . . .

From page A22

may have her mistakes but loving Rico wasn't one of them. And I'm sure that even Rico would not want all their happy memories to go to waste.

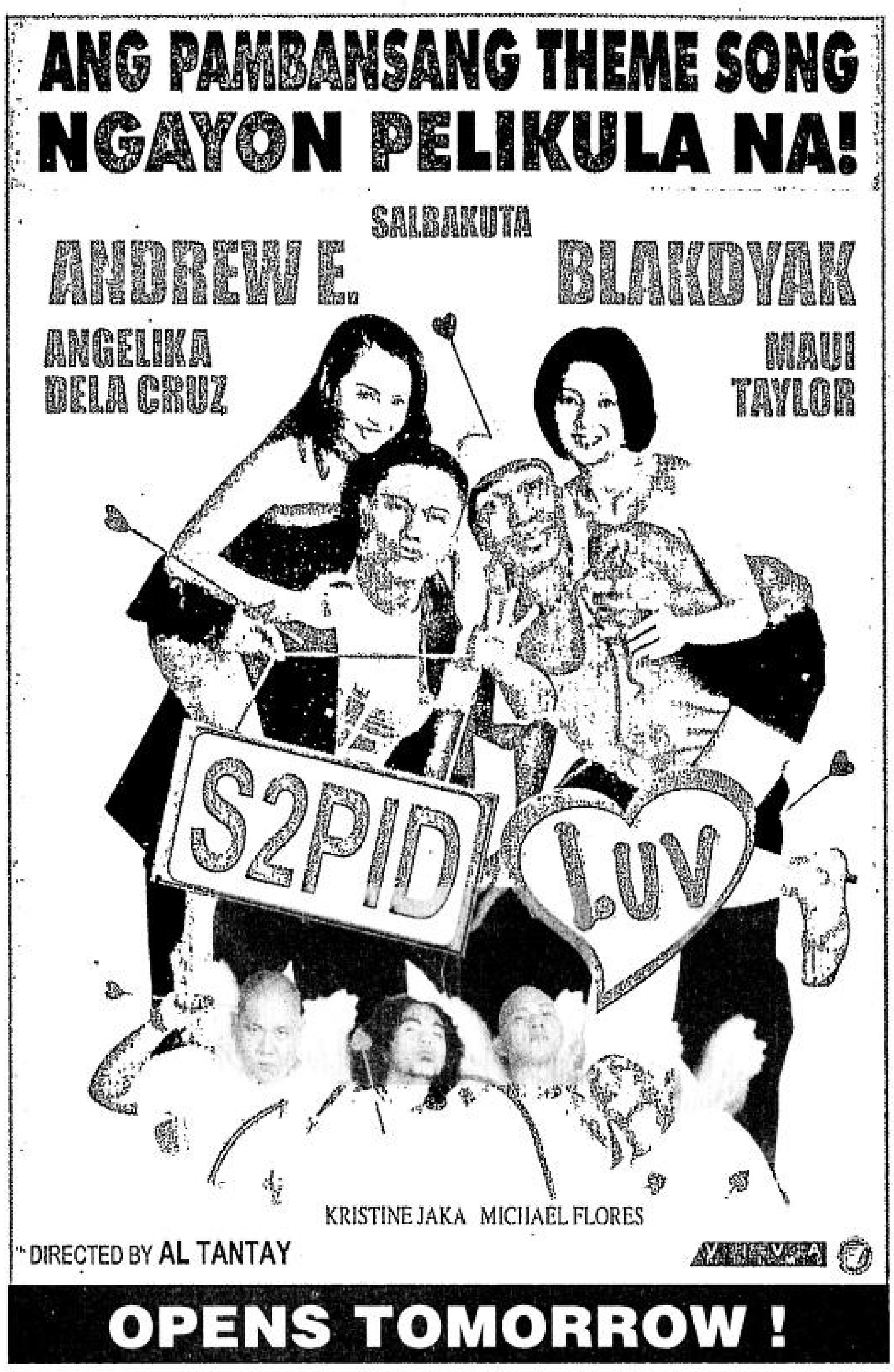
If there's anything to be learned from the abrupt and sorry ending of their love affair, it's that even if we walk away from love, when we still have it within us, that love will just keep haunting us.

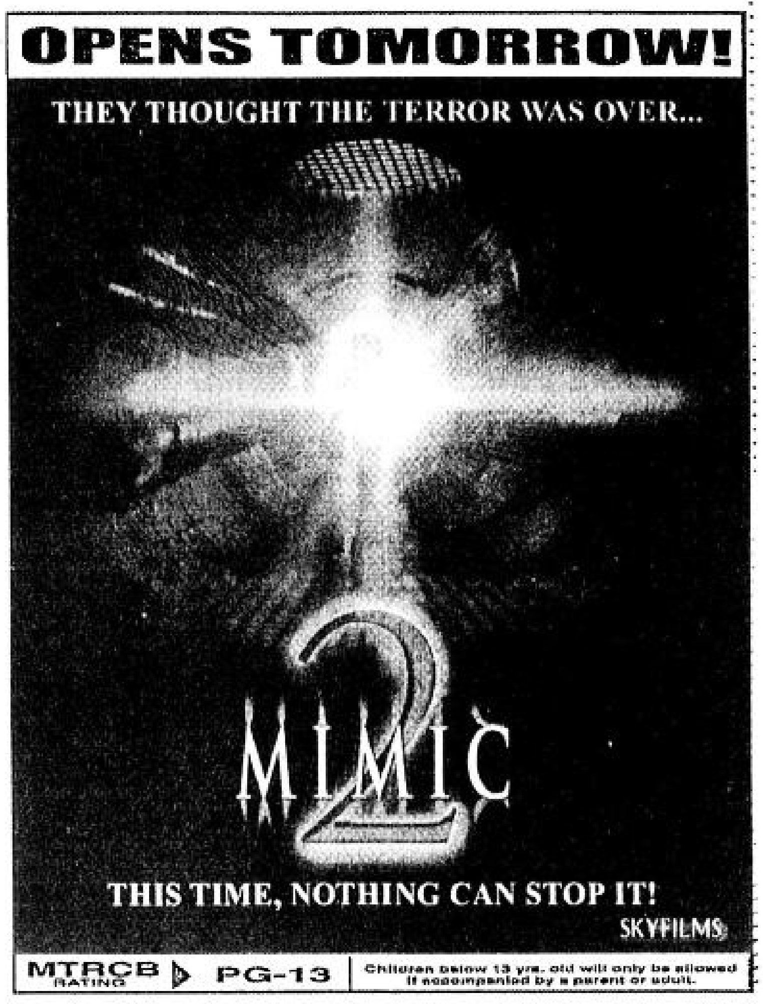
Only Rico and Claudine really know.

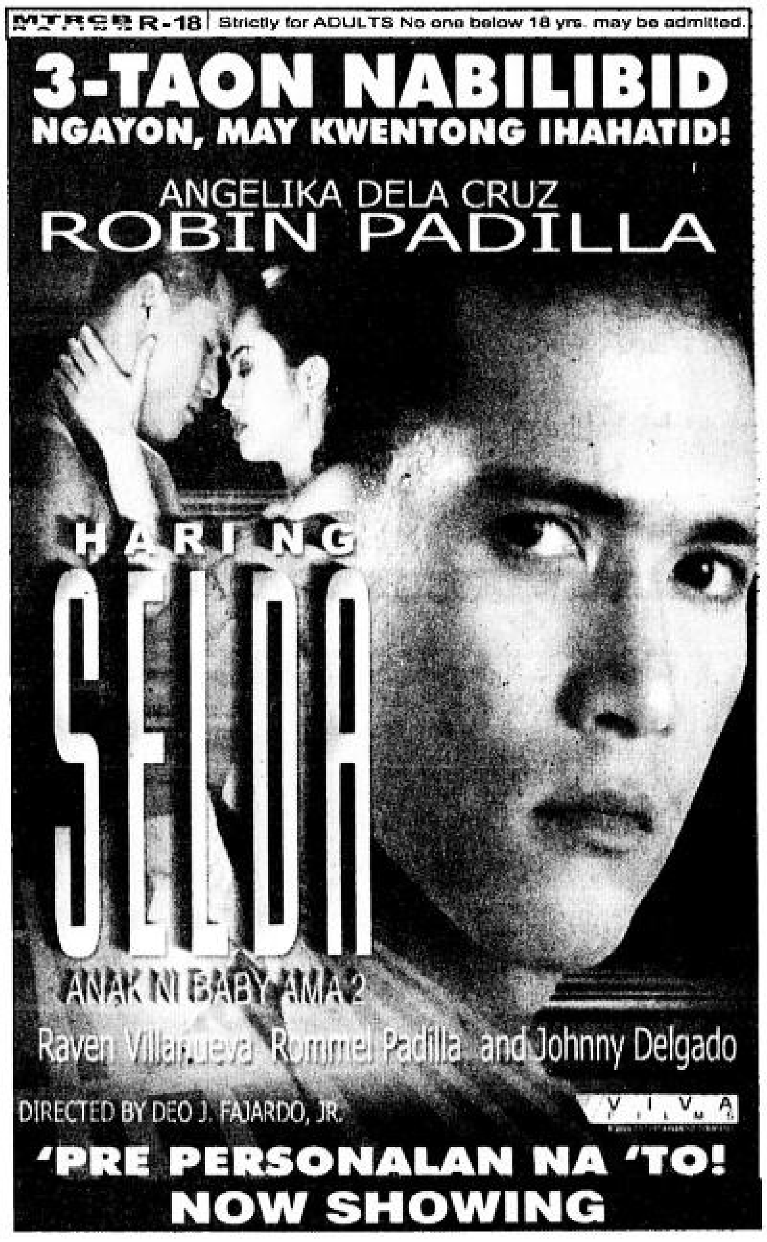
For feedback, e-mail luvludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

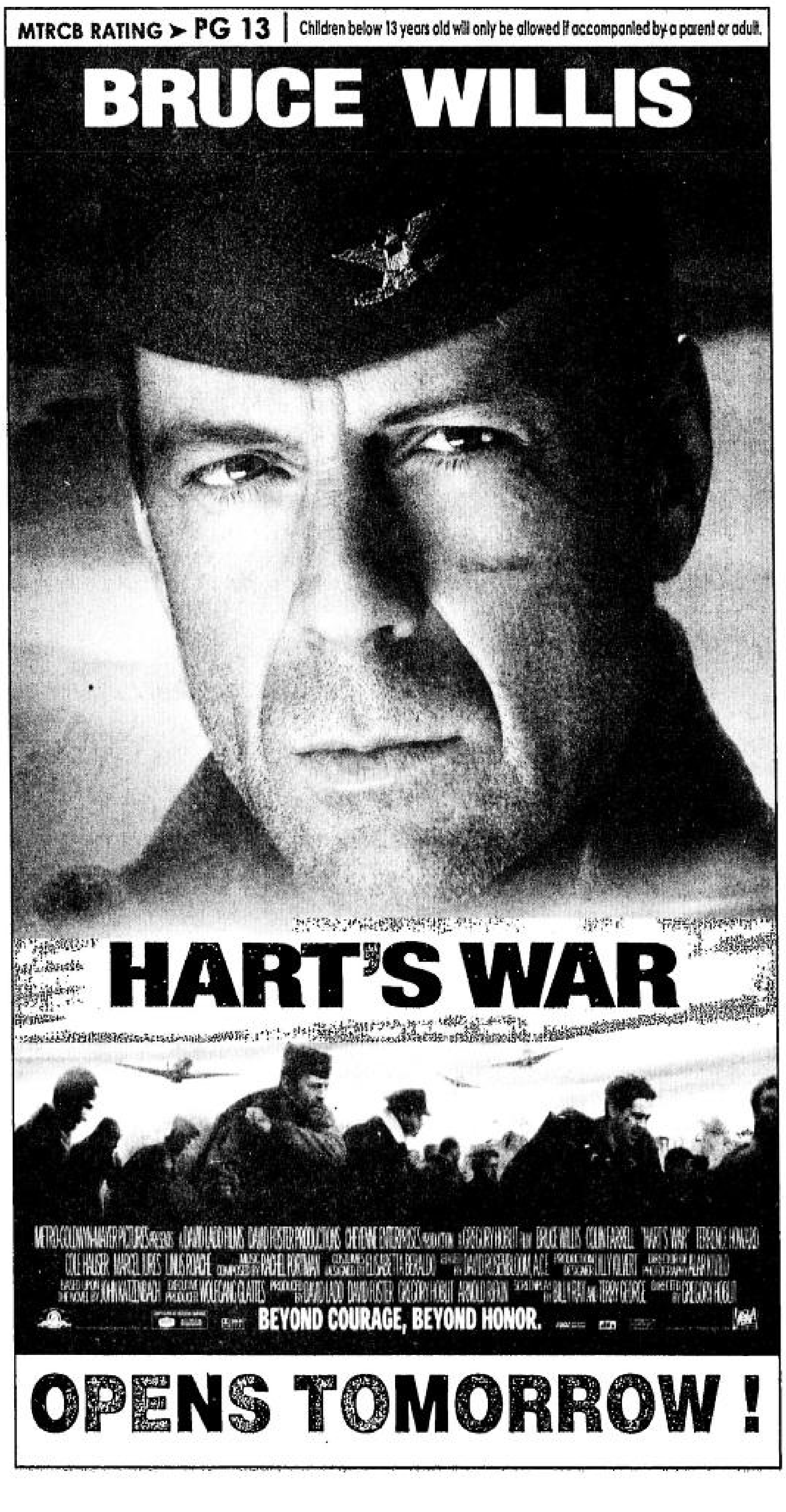
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CROSS ROAD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HARI NG SELDA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BLADE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TIME MACHINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EVIL WOMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	HARI NG SELDA
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HARI NG SELDA
B	ITLOG
C	GOT 2 BELIEVE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ICE AGE
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	BLADE 2
CINEMA-3	ITLOG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EVIL WOMAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	ICE AGE
CINEMA-8	QUEEN OF DAMNED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-12	CROSS ROADS
CINEMA-14	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-15	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	CROSS ROAD
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CINEMA-3	BLADE 2
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	EVIL WOMAN
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID


ANG PAMBANSANG THEME SONG NGAYON PELIKULA NA!
SALBAKUTA
ANDREW E.
BLAKDYAK
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
MAUI TAYLOR
S2PID LUV
KRISTINE JAKA MICHAEL FLORES
DIRECTED BY AL TANTAY
OPENS TOMORROW !


OPENS TOMORROW!
THEY THOUGHT THE TERROR WAS OVER...
MIMIC 2
THIS TIME, NOTHING CAN STOP IT!
SKYFILMS
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.


MTRCB R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
3-TAON NABILIBID
NGAYON, MAY KWENTONG IHAHATID!
ANGELIKA DELA CRUZ
ROBIN PADILLA
HARING SELDA
ANAK NI BABY AMA 2
Raven Villanueva Rommel Padilla and Johnny Delgado
DIRECTED BY DEO J. FAJARDO, JR.
VIVA FILMS
'PRE PERSONALAN NA 'TO!
NOW SHOWING


MTRCB RATING PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
BRUCE WILLIS
HART'S WAR
BEYOND COURAGE, BEYOND HONOR.
OPENS TOMORROW !

OPENS APRIL 10 !
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 18 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
EDDIE MURPHY ROBERT DENIRO
On alert. On patrol. On camera.
SHOWTIME
SPECIAL THANKS TO

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Jodie Foster at 39

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME female stars dread turning 40, but for **Jodie Foster**, it's bound to be "a wonderful time in a woman's life. You can look back on everything you've accomplished, there are much fewer question marks in your life, and you can really enjoy yourself."

Foster was shooting the breeze recently with **Larry King** on his TV show, on the occasion of the release of her latest starrer, "Panic Room." King was frankly smitten with her verve and talent, and so was this viewer.

Listening to her sharing her perceptive thoughts on life and the movies was a bracing experience, after all the shallow show biz interviews we've heard recently.

What are Foster's prospect for the near future? She still wants to direct **Russell Crowe** in "Flora Plum," a project that had to be postponed due to the injuries they both suffered recently.

She loves directing more than acting, unlike others who find being the prime mover of an entire film much more stressful than just acting and worrying about only one character.

Foster's logic: Directing *is* difficult because you have to be on top of so many things, but it's easier in the sense that you're in control, you're the leader, and what you says, goes. On the other hand, an actor has to worry only about his role, but acting is stressful because you're always trying to please other people.

How's Foster as an actress? She looks cool and professional, but she makes it a point to bring her personal feelings to her performances. In fact, she declares, "Every character you play is you."

How does she choose her roles? "I work so little, so I have to feel really passionately about a part for me to accept it." And she isn't closed to criticism, unlike some of her colleagues. "I like criticism, it's important to me, she says. "Good critics help me!"

Best movies on Cinemax

YES, you can see good movies on cable TV. Take a look at these promising prospects this month on the Cinemax channel:

Tuesday, April 9 at 8 a.m., "The Secret of My Success." 1 p.m., "55 Days at Peking." Wednesday, April 10 at 9 p.m., "Animal Factory." Thursday, April 11, "The End of the Affair."

Friday, April 12 at 12:25 a.m., "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." Saturday, April 13 at 3:15 p.m., "Tea with Mussolini." 4:30 a.m., "Map of the Human Heart." Sunday, April 14 at 8 a.m., "The Whole Nine Yards."

Monday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m., "Against Their Will." Tuesday, April 16 at 5:45 p.m., "Scrooged." Wednesday, April 17 at 9 p.m., "The Warden." Thursday, April 18 at 7:30 a.m., "Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb."

Saturday, April 20 at 5:15 p.m., "Election." Sunday, April 21 at 1:45 a.m., "The Philadelphia Experiment." Tuesday, April 23 at 11:30 a.m., "The Jerk."

Wednesday, April 24 at 9 p.m., "The Green Mile." Friday, April 26 at 3:45 p.m., "The Glenn Miller Story." Sunday, April 28 at 9 p.m., "Being John Malkovich."

New shows, seasons on Studio 23

AT 8 p.m. last Monday, April 1, the fifth season of "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer," starring **Sarah Michelle Gellar**, premiered on Studio 23.

On Tuesday, April 2 at 8 p.m., "Dawson's Creek" launched its fifth season, with **James Van Der Beek**, **Katie Holmes**, **Joshua Jackson**, **Michelle Williams** and **Kerr Smith** playing lead roles. At 9 p.m., **David Boreanz** returned in "Angel," playing a vampire with a soul.

Wednesday, April 3, Studio 23 premiered "Baywatch Hawaii" at 8 p.m. The show's new, up-and-coming stars include **Brooke Burns**, **Michael Bergin**, **Jason Brooks**, **Stacy Lee Kamano** and **Jason Mamoa**.

Feedback

MONTHS ago, we bumped into **Amy Austria** at a theater and she came over to ask if we'd gotten her e-mail regarding our piece on her in "Bagong Buwan." No, such luck, we said, and let it go at that.

Well, a few days ago, Amy's e-mail finally reached us, like a voice from the past, and we're running it now:

"Dear NUT, I just wanted to say thank you for the write-up you did on me that other day. It's the best article ever written about me and I just wanted you to know that . . ."

***

JUST the other day, we got a phone call from **Tita Muñoz**, who expressed her appreciation for the recent piece we did on her. Like Amy, Tita said it was the best thing she'd read on her. Hey, this could go to our head!

Thanks, ladies—we assure you, you deserve every word of praise in those articles!

Text your choice of movie

CINEMA One, the Filipino movie channel, invites texters to pick one of three possible films for a given night, with the channel airing the movie that garners the most texted "votes."

On April 16, "Luv Txt" stars **Judy Ann Santos**, **Wowie de Guzman** and **Russell C. Mon**, under the direction of **Rowell Santiago**. "Kahit Isang Saglit" also stars Judy Ann, this time with **Piolo Pascual** and **Leandro Muñoz**. And "Radio Romance" has an ensemble cast headed by **Rico Yan** and **Claudine Barretto**.

Which film is your choice for screening on Cinema One? Watch out for the My Movie Special plugs airing on the channel.

Too much doubt, too many questions

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

"REMEMBER the day I borrowed your brand new car and I dented it? I thought you'd kill me, but you didn't.

"And remember the time I dragged you to the beach, and you said it would rain and it did? I thought you'd say, "I told you so." But you didn't.

"Do you remember the time I flirted with all the guys to make you jealous and you were? I thought you'd leave me, but you didn't.

"Do you remember the time I spilled strawberry pie all over your car rug? I thought you'd hit me, but you didn't.

"And remember the time I forgot to tell you the dance was formal and you showed up in jeans? I thought you'd drop me, but you didn't.

"Yes, there were a lot of things that you didn't do.

"But you put up with me, and you loved me and you protected me.

"There were a lot of things I wanted to make up to you when you returned from Vietnam.

"But you didn't." —Anoynymous

I was at a loss as to how to react to the e-mail overload on the controversies surrounding **Claudine Barretto** after **Rico Yan**'s untimely demise. So I opted to start off with a poem I found in **Leo Buscaglia**'s "Living Loving and Learning." Surely not only Claudine can relate to the poignant message of the poem above.

I'm pretty sure most of you got copies of all those "poison mail." Shouldn't the intrigues have been buried with Rico?

I guess there are some issues that will only fester if you bury them alive. There are just too many doubts, too much speculation, too many queries that can't be ignored. Questions from readers such as, why was Claudine with **Raymart Santiago** in Subic during Holy Week if she claims that she still loves Rico? Why was Claudine relegated to the background during Rico's interment? Was she really barred from going near Rico's casket? Was she really set to sue Rico for alleged physical injuries after their lover's quarrel got out of hand?

Why did eyewitness reports say that Rico referred to Claudine as "the woman out of my life" when he dedicated a song to her during his last night in Dos Palmas while Claudine insists they were in the process of fixing things? If Rico didn't die, would she stop seeing Raymart and take Rico back? Ad infinitum.

Marjorie texted me from Hong Kong requesting me to pray for all of Claudine's detractors.

At first, I asked myself if I should even touch on the topic, considering that news about Rico and Claudine is already coming out of everyone's ears. But I could not ignore the number of e-mails I got from concerned, curious, confused readers.

We all have our own stories of how it is to lose an ex, and not necessarily to death; maybe he found someone else. When your boyfriend has another woman, that could be fatal, but death is a final blow.

Is it less painful knowing that your ex is still around but he's no longer yours, or accepting that your ex has died and you were the last woman in his life? I always tease one one of my exes, "If you can't live without me, why are you still alive?"

Let's not pass judgment on Claudine. She

TOO/ A21

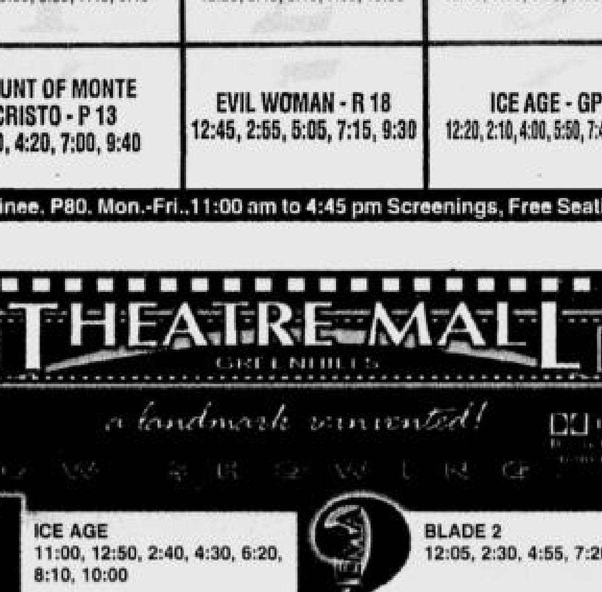
POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

CROSS ROADS - P 13 1:35, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	E.T. - GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	BLADE 2 - P 13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	EVIL WOMAN - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	ICE AGE - GP 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30

Matinee. P80. Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
1 ICE AGE
11:00, 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
2 BLADE 2
12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45
Matinee P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating P120.00 - After 5:00pm, Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM APRIL 12 & 13 KUH LEDESMA (On Higher Ground)
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL 721-4720 OR 721-0635

See it first!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING



MTRCB RATING: P13
Invitational CityLite Screening on April 9, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 1
Regular showing on April 10 at the SM CINEMAS.

Q. How does The Inquirer protect small fry?

5 cronies found keeping $100M Swiss banks

A.
INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE II

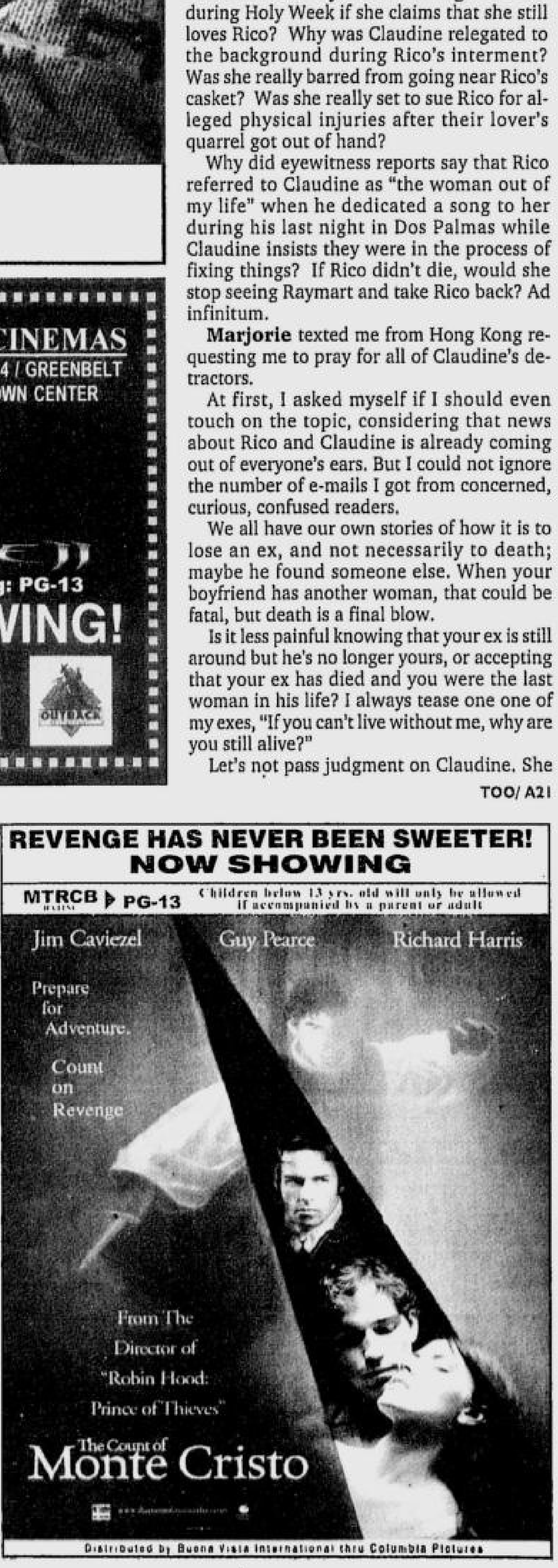
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
SHARPER
FASTER
DEADLIER
BLADE II
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
NOW SHOWING!
Vortex Drumstick OUTBACK

OPENS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING PG-13

blow dry
Intermedia
MIRAMAX FILMS
IMF
Solar Films Inc.

The stars of "Black Hawk Down" and "She's All That" are paired for the first time in this Year's Most Romantic Comedy about Love with a lot of air!
Josh Hartnett
Rachael Leigh Cook

REVENGE HAS NEVER BEEN SWEETER!
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



Jim Caviezel
Guy Pearce
Richard Harris
Prepare for Adventure.
Count on Revenge
From The Director of "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves"
The Count of Monte Cristo

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

DELL™
PowerEdge 6450
Scalable Enterprise Performance Server
Call us today to speak with an expert about the server that's right for you.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

TUESDAY,
APRIL 9, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◉ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

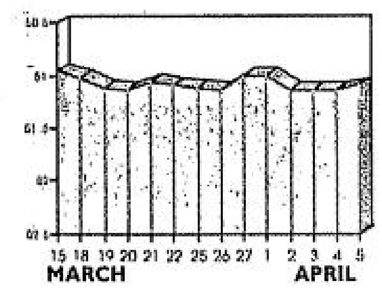
MOTOLITE
EXPRESS HATID
843-1111
Available in Metro Manila only

'Hot money' inflow picking up, says BSP

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.095 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 5, 2002

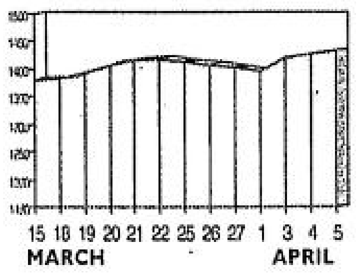
¥131.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 8, 2002

GOLD: $298.70/299.20
per ounce Hong Kong, April 8, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices closed 0.5 percent higher Friday in reaction to Standard & Poor's upgrading its long-term credit outlook for the country to stable from negative, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 6.59 points to 1,432.86 on moderate volume of P452.63 million.

Advancers beat gainers 22 to 18 and there were 30 stocks unchanged.

Consumer prices were 3.6 percent higher year-on-year in March, the National Statistics Office said.

It came after inflation touched a two-year low in February at 3.4 percent, triggering the last cut in the central bank's overnight rates.

"At 3.6 percent, that means interest rates will still be low, and this has inspired buying in select blue chips and secondliners like Ayala Land and Filinvest," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap. *Reuters, AFP*

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE COUNTRY saw a healthier net inflow of portfolio funds or the so-called hot money last month as investors started reconsidering financial investment opportunities in Southeast Asia while interest rates in the United States remained low.

In a briefing Friday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said there was a net inflow of $25.1 million in March as $146 million in funds entered the local financial system against the $120.9 million that was taken out. This was a marked increase over the net inflow of $1.7 million in March last year.

The March figures brought up the first three-month portfolio investments net inflow to $96.9 million as the total inflow of $375.5 million exceeded the total outflow of $278.6 million during the period.

Buenaventura expressed confidence that portfolio funds would continue to come in, particularly in view of rating firm Standard & Poor's recent move upgrading its outlook on Philippine long-term credit to stable from negative.

He also pointed out that portfolio or short-term funds had been flowing into the country because of the interest rate differential that the BSP maintained between peso-denominated and dollar-denominated financial assets. The country's stable foreign exchange rate and its high gross international reserves also contributed in attracting portfolio investments.

In a report Thursday, Morgan Stanley noted "that a majority of portfolio managers are showing a fundamental change in attitude toward the marginalized markets of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines."

The US-based investment firm, however, added that the Philippines was viewed more as a "cyclical play" rather than a story of real economic and corporate reforms.

"There is a consensus that there will be limited progress on economic and fiscal restructuring as President Macapagal-Arroyo is heavily indebted to the Church, the landed gentry and big businesses as these institutions supported her against former President Estrada," Morgan Stanley said.

It also said that it was most bearish on the Philippines because the country's economic managers would likely match any US rate increases given the government's heavy foreign and domestic indebtedness and high dependency on short-term capital and remittances.

Morgan Stanley predicted that US short-term rates would rise by 175 basis points in the second half of the year to bring the US Federal Reserve Bank's rate to 3.5 percent.

The BSP usually takes its cue in adjusting its policy rates from the Federal Reserve Bank's moves.

Despite DOJ stance, GMA upholds cement tariff

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday upheld the Department of Trade and Industry's decision to impose punitive tariffs on cement.

This despite the Department of Justice's legal opinion that the Tariff Commission's order lifting the provisional tariff imposed by the DTI is binding.

The DOJ said the DTI's only recourse was to ask the President to suspend the Tariff Commission's order.

"I've said it several times: I support Secretary Manuel Roxas' position," Ms Macapagal said in her weekly radio program yesterday.

"I disagree with the Tariff Commission's claim that (tariffs) don't affect (local) manufacturers. They are greatly affected," she went on.

Ms Macapagal lambasted cement importers who, without the tariff, had brought in cheaper cement from abroad.

She said the importers did not sell the cement at prices lower than those of locally manufactured cement.

She said they just followed the prices of local cement manufacturers.

Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said the Cabinet Committe on Tariff and Related Matters was reviewing the Tariff Commission's decision.

The committee is composed of the DTI, Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority.

Tiglao could not say if the review process would be affected by the DOJ opinion, which came out last Thursday.

"(The Tariff Commission's decision) may be binding, but it can still be reviewed," he said.

He said the Cabinet committee on tariffs and related matters "could ask the Tariff Commission to study it after the review."

The DTI raised the cement tariff issue to the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters following its setback at the Tariff Commission.

In an earlier interview, Roxas said the trade department had to

DESPITE/ B5

Passion
Race for Revo!
VX200

Choose amongst 15 Toyota REVO models and enjoy limited-time-only choices of Easy-To-Own Schemes!

RACE FOR 0% INTEREST DEAL for all REVO models*
RACE FOR LOW DOWN DEAL As low as ₱82,600 Downpayment**
RACE FOR LOW MONTHLY DEAL As low as ₱6,370***

AND MORE!
FLEXIFINANCE DEAL
From 12 months to 60 months financing schemes
SPECIAL CASH DEAL
Cash buyers get exclusive packages

Subject to bank approval.
Promo period: April 5 to 30, 2002
*50% Down payment, 12 months scheme
**20% Downpayment for the DLX Gas
***for 60 months, 50% Down payment for the DLX Gas

NOW AVAILABLE, THE NEW 2.4L DIESEL REVO SR

ME AND MY TAMARAW FX REVO
TOYOTA

Rush to your nearest Toyota dealers today.
TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd cor Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1901 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 443-0778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7366 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., 325 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 810-2222 / 810-7481 to 88 / 844-7944 / 844-8472 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 840 / (088) 856-0954 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-0771 / 6734 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0958 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-6640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6116 to 119 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor Toyota Ave., Marikina City 933-8631 to 34 / 682-2684 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 08 TOYOTA SHAW, INC. 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 24 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1260, Series of 2002

Gov't disputes lobby group's claims vs RP anti-piracy drive

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AMERICAN companies may be losing $120 million yearly from bootleggers of software, movie, music and book in the Philippines but this is only a pittance compared to the $2.6 billion annual losses they incur from copyright infringement in the United States.

This was stressed by Intellectual Property Office director general Emma C. Francisco who has disputed the American lobby group International Intellectual Property Alliance's latest attempt to belittle the Philippine government's efforts in protecting copyrights, patents and other intellectual property rights (IPR).

Francisco said: "The Philippines is willing to learn from the best practices that the US will adopt to address the $2.6 billion losses incurred by copyright industries in the US." The US accounts for nearly a quarter of the estimated $12 billion in losses from IPR violations worldwide.

Francisco said the IPO would counter the IIPA's claims that there was no concerted government effort against intellectual property violations in the Philippines during the US-Philippines Trade and Investment Council Meeting in Manila today.

Francisco said the "three branches of government have joined hands to combat piracy and protect intellectual property owners."

She said Congress has ratified several bills that would strengthen the country's rules against pirates with a number of related bills still in the pipeline. She said the Supreme Court has designated seven regional trial courts as special intellectual property courts to hasten the resolution of IPR cases. She said the executive branch was relentlessly pursuing violators through various enforcement agencies.

The IIPA, a group of seven trade associations composed of 1,450 US copyright-based companies, successfully convinced the US Trade Representative to nudge the Philippines from the ordinary to the priority watchlist of the world's worst IPR violators in its Special 301 report.

During a visit to the Philippines last year, US Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary William Lash III said the Unites States was not satisfied with the Philippines' efforts to curb the rampant violation of intellectual property rights which he said has robbed American companies of $200 million in losses last year.

Lash said it was not enough that the country has rules outlawing illegal copying of patented works, the government should be able to prosecute, penalize or jail those who violate the law. "Promises made should be promises kept," Lash said.

But Francisco countered that the IIPA wanted to use the government as one huge collecting agent for intellectual property owners that file cases but who abandon the same when they have reached settlement agreements with violators. This is why criminal cases involving IPR violations have been settled without the knowledge of prosecution and enforcement agencies who discover that a settlement has been made only when the complainants do not appear during the course of the investigation.

The IPO maintained that that the country has one of the lowest incidence of piracy in Asean and that the IIPA itself acknowledged that the bootlegged copies were coming from the country's neighbors such as Malaysia and Taiwan.

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Is pleased to invite you to an

Industry Analysis Workshop

April 25 & 26, 2002, 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
PLDT Hall, UA&P Campus, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

■ Microeconomic Concepts Relevant to Industry ■ The Structure-Conduct-Performance Framework ■ Porter's Five Forces Framework of Industry Analysis ■ An Analysis of the Retail Trade Industry ■ Case Discussion

For more information, please call Ms. Lanie B. Reyes
at 631-1305; 637-8505; 637-8538
or e-mail lreyes@uap.edu.ph

INTERNET FOR SMALL BUSINESS
Call: 891 3412
free WEB DESIGN
www.webnetph.com
Domain Name Registration
Web Hosting
E-mail Account
Website Maintenance
Website promotion & Marketing
e-Business Consultancy

Change the way you see tomorrow's networking technologies.

Discover all that's possible at Cisco Solutions Showcase 2002

SHOWCASE 2002

Event Details
Date : April 12, 2002
Venue : The Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati
Time : Registration opens at 8:00 AM, Seminars end at 5:30 PM

An Invitation to the Technology Conference of the Year
Cisco Systems' Showcase 2002

There is more about networking technologies that you will ever learn in school. So we are inviting you to join us at Showcase 2002 where we will show you the future of networking technologies and teach you how to face its challenges in the real world.

This is the event where you get to hear first hand from Cisco executives the company's vision and strategies. Cisco Internetworking experts will also provide comprehensive and technical sessions.

Choose from 20 topics *(in four breakout rooms)*
- Introduction to Storage Networking
- Deploying Storage Networks
- Case Study: Cisco's Global Contact Center Operations
- Incorporating New World Contact Center Solutions into your existing Call Center Infrastructure
- Deploying Contact Center Solutions within Your VOIP Infrastructure
- The Role of Cisco.Unity (and other services) in IP Telephony
- Introduction to Optical Technologies
- Deploying High Performance Metro Optical Infrastructure
- Deploying IP-based Telephony Applications (includes unified messaging)
- Case Study: Cisco's IP Telephony Deployment
- Design and Implementation of Enterprise IP Telephony Networks
- Deploying and Managing Wireless LANs
- Deploying Enterprise Content Delivery Networks
- Securing your Telecommuters and Mobile Users
- Understanding Firewall Technology
- Building Next Generation DSL Networks
- Deploying Packet Data Services in Mobile Wireless Networks
- Deploying Large Scale VPNs with MPLS
- Designing Converged Voice/Dial in Wholesale Access Environments
- Deploying QoS for Voice and Video in IP Networks

Get a chance to win in the raffle and games to be held at the mini-exhibit area!

For more information, please contact Melanie at (632) 897-5011.

The Internet has changed everything about the way we work, live, play and learn.

Join us at Showcase 2002. We look forward to seeing you at one of the most exciting events on the Asia Pacific calendar.

To qualify for a **FREE*** seat fill-out the form below and send fax to **890-3590** or email to **registrar-cisco@pssi-intl.com**.

Subject: ***Request for Cisco Complimentary Seat.***
Name: ____________
Designation: ____________
Company Name: ____________
Address: ____________
Telephone No. ____________
Fax Number. ____________
Email

Professional Systems Synergy, Inc., our event manager, will [illegible] qualification and confirmation of your seat in the conference. Walk-in registrants will not be admitted.

www.cisco.com

CISCO SYSTEMS

Lights, camera, auction

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ONE reader sent me a message over the cell phone recently. Let's see you, Adong Banal, the reader politely told me, solve this problem, *aver*. I'm not sure if he or she likes me!

It goes: "Suppose Casino Filipino raises its income by P3.5 billion. Is it okay for the Department of Trade and Industry to stop the auction of heavy equipment? Explain."

It's a tough one, admittedly. In the first place, I'm not sure Casino Filipino uses much heavy equipment. I suspect it needs armored trucks for hauling that kind of money.

I only know the DTI's Bureau of Import Services, or BIS, in effect, forced a stop to public auctions of heavy equipment. It is not issuing import permits anymore.

So says Dominic Sytin. He owns and runs the company United Auctioneer in Valenzuela. It is a pioneer in the "unreserved" public auction of heavy equipment here.

United Auctioneer is one of the targets of the DTI, which makes Japanese and American car assemblers here happy, by putting guys like Sytin out of business.

* * *

OVER the greater radio program Barangay 1026 on Angel Radio, Sytin said the Bureau of Customs no longer accepts payments of duties and taxes for imported used vehicles.

Apparently, the DTI does not respect the opinion of the Office of the President, Department of Justice and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

All of them said the importation of used vehicles in Subic is legal. It is contrary to the DTI position. Precisely, the DTI tried to stop the importation by declaring it illegal.

It's where the BIS is useful. To accept payment for duties and taxes, the customs bureau requires those BIS import permits. Today, the BIS is just not issuing any.

For no reason at all, *basta*, all of a sudden, this BIS can deny anybody an import permit for used vehicles, and the BIS can even claim it is just doing its job.

Under the rules of the BIS, importation of any used vehicles is prohibited. Except perhaps, well, *kariton*. The rules were written during the time of Limahong.

* * *

SO WHY did the BIS allow the importation of used vehicles if it was against the rules? Simple. At that time, Japanese and American car assemblers did not yet grumble.

But they are now grumbling about the importation of used SUVs and passenger vans. They are saying they are losing business to the imported used vehicles.

Actually, Japanese and American car assemblers also import SUVs as completely built-up units. Only, they are brand-new and, thus, they are expensive.

Of course they say it's all because they pay too much taxes for the brand-new SUVs. The imported secondhand SUVs are much cheaper because of lower taxes.

But word going around indicates that Japanese and American car assemblers here also, er, "save" a lot in their tax payments for imported brand-new SUVs.

If that's true, the DTI is only favoring the car companies in their own business of importation. The DTI only wants them to make the money, and not guys like Sytin. *Aray!*

* * *

SAY what you will about the imported secondhand SUVs and passenger vans, but I don't think we must stop the public auction of used heavy equipment.

In the auction, you don't see lights or cameras, and it's just all action. No drama, no minimum price. Thus, buyers always have the chance to get items they can afford.

Prices can go down considerably. The auction, in effect, does away with the mark-ups of middlemen. All those layers of mark-ups can reach 50 percent of the price.

To think, guys like Sytin sell the imported used heavy equipment mostly to local government units and private contractors, which are also doing work for the government.

The actual problem is the imported used SUVs and vans. They're too cheap. They compete with similarly imported brand-new SUVs and vans of car companies.

But the DTI must please these companies. To do that, it seems the BIS is willing to sacrifice the business for used heavy equipment. I think something is wrong.

* * *

NOW, I heard that Ephraim Genuino, chair of Pagcor, owner of Casino Filipino, wants to raise the company's income by another P500 to P600 million a month.

Maybe that's why the DTI thinks it's all right to do away with cheap used trucks and heavy equipment, by stopping their importation. There's Casino Filipino, anyway.

Most likely Genuino will hit his target. I heard that he already stopped the practice of Casino Filipino's honoring checks.

Big-time players, of course, complained that they had to carry around millions of cash. Genuino reportedly told them that Casino Filipino does not need their millions.

Moderation is the buzzword at the Casino Filipino nowadays. Word is going around that Casino Filipino recently banned a big-time player from any of its casinos.

Word is, the poor guy got so hooked on gaming that he already sold the ancestral home in Forbes Park. As a policy, Casino Filipino does not want such players.

* * *

THEY may give Pagcor more income, actually, but Genuino probably thinks that the backlash can even be more costly. The main criticism against Pagcor is the so-called social cost of operating casinos. People can lose their pants—plus their underwear.

Thus, Genuino decided that Casino Filipino should no longer honor checks. Initially, his executives thought it would slash Pagcor's income. It worked the other way.

Pagcor's biggest income drain when Genuino became chair was its mountains of receivables. Yes, those checks! They were always eventually written off.

So if Genuino hits his target to raise Pagcor's income by another P3.5 billion this year, its total income can reach roughly P17 to 18 billion.

Now a proposed bill in Congress calls for Pagcor to set aside one percent of its income for livelihood projects in the poorest barangays. That's about P175 to P180 million.

That may be something, but I don't think it's enough. I think we still need to create other job opportunities. Like those coming from those buyers of secondhand trucks and heavy equipment.

German lender imposes stiff terms on PLDT loan

**By Doris C. Dumlao
and Abigail L. Ho**

GERMAN bilateral lender Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) has imposed four stiff conditions for the disbursement of the bulk of the $149-million loan it earlier committed to local telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Industry sources told the INQUIRER that the German development bank, which has so far released only $8 million of the approved loan, informed PLDT that the disbursement of the remaining amount would depend on the infusion of fresh funds into the telecom firm.

Among the four conditions sought by KfW, the sources said, was the completion of the sale of a minority stake in mobile phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. by the first semester of this year.

The other conditions imposed were:

- The release of a $100-million loan sought by PLDT from Japan Bank for international Cooperation;
- The implementation of a $350-million PLDT bond float by Dec. 31; and,
- To raise at least $350 million from the sale of the minority stake in Smart or a bond float.

The credit line approved by KfW was scheduled for disbursement within three years.

In a special board meeting in late March when the matter was discussed, the sources said PLDT had agreed to negotiate with KfW for the reconsideration of the stiff conditions and to push for the release of some of the funds by the end of the year.

The sources said PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan had committed to obtain the $100-million JBIC loan by the first half of the year.

They also said Pangilinan believed it was feasible to put in place a bond float by the end of the year but at a lower offering size of $250 million.

In a separate interview, a PLDT official said it was "not unusual" for creditors like KfW to give inputs on how to conduct its debt management initiatives.

"The KfW loan is but a component of that. The other components have to be in place also," the official said.

"KfW gave us an extension. It agreed to move some of the milestone dates. I think there are three milestone dates and KfW approved to move at least one of those," the official noted.

Being a development bank, the PLDT official said the KfW loan has some political components but the conditions being imposed were "not onerous."

The official said PLDT's debt management initiatives were running smoothly and the demands of creditors like KfW were not unreasonable.

Banks' NPLs still rising

By Elena R. Torrijos

DESPITE an improving economic environment, the asset quality of the country's 44 commercial banks continued to worsen in February as more bad loans and idle real estate holdings piled up.

In a statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said that the commercial banking sector's non-performing loan ratio moved up to 18.40 percent in February from the month-ago level of 18.30 percent. A year ago, the banks' share of bad loans to its total loan portfolio was 16.62 percent.

The increase in the NPL ratio was brought about by the P5.6-billion increase in the amount of soured loans to P295.6 billion from P290 billion, which was offset partly by the banks' increased lending activity.

Non-performing loans are loans whose principal or interest remained unpaid for 90 days from due date.

The BSP data showed that private-sector banks had started to be more aggressive in lending. All banks, except those owned by the government, posted loan growth, driving the commercial banks' total loan portfolio up to P1.606 trillion, or P21.4 billion more than the previous month's level.

Awash with liquidity, banks are being pressured to lend to the private sector as yields of government borrowings have been declining sharply.

Commercial banks also worked to set aside more provisions for loan losses or to restructure loans. Loan loss reserves grew by 3.1 percent or P3.9 billion to P126.6 billion, bringing up the reserve cover to 44.2 percent from 43.7 percent.

FAX REPAIR
AS LOW AS
P300
FREE
No need to replace your faulty fax,because we can repair it back to perfection-as only the kings can.
KINGS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC.
KCS
• M-14 Auro-Vir Plaza, 1695 Evangelista St. Bangkal, Makati City
Tels. 894-2309 / 843-6630 / 843-6682
• Rm.201 Columbian Bldg. 160 West Ave. cor. EDSA, Quezon City
Tels. 929-2052 / 929-2054

Panasonic	NEC	SAMSUNG
SANYO	[illegible]	[illegible]
MURATA	SHARP	OKI
NISSEI	Canon	OTHERS

CUT THIS AD AND AVAIL OF A 10% DISCOUNT
We also repair Computers

Can't use it?
We'll fix it!
60 MINS.
JUST CALL US! WE'LL FIX IT IN A FLASH!
Fax machines • Computers / Monitors • Printers (Laser, Deskjet, Dot Matrix) • Key Telephone System Sets • Answering Machines • Paper Shredders • UPS-AVRs • Typewriters and other office equipment

[illegible]	Panasonic
EPSON	SHARP
OKI	XEROX
SANYO	[illegible]
SAMSUNG	brother
muratec	Canon

CITIWORLD
BUSINESS MACHINES SERVICES CORP.
One-Stop Service Network
Rm. 109 David I Bldg. 567 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4694
Makati Office: 3A, Trans-Phil House 117 Chino Roces Ave. Corner Bagtikan St., Makati City Tel. Nos.: 895-1435 / 896-6032

OPEN YOURSELF TO OPPORTUNITIES. ENROLL NOW!
APTECH™ PRO-ADVANCE
Enroll at APTECH now and get a headstart in IT. Specialize in the cutting-edge technology of your choice. A profitable and fulfilling career in information technology awaits you.

INTERNET APPLICATIONS USING JAVA TECHNOLOGY

INTERNET PROGRAMMING USING JAVA TECHNOLOGY will equip IT Professionals with the technical skills required to become a Java Applications Developer, a Java Solutions Architect, or a Web Applications Developer.

This specialization has the following components:
- OOP Concepts with C++
- Introduction to Java Programming
- Advanced Java Programming

Global Web Development

With GLOBAL WEB DEVELOPMENT IT Professionals can become Web Authors equipped with competencies that meet international standards.

This specialization has the following components:
- Active Server Pages (ASP)
- eXtensible Markup Language (XML)
- PERL and Common Gateway Interface
- Macromedia Flash 5
- ColdFusion

BUSINESS DATA MANAGEMENT USING ORACLE TECHNOLOGY

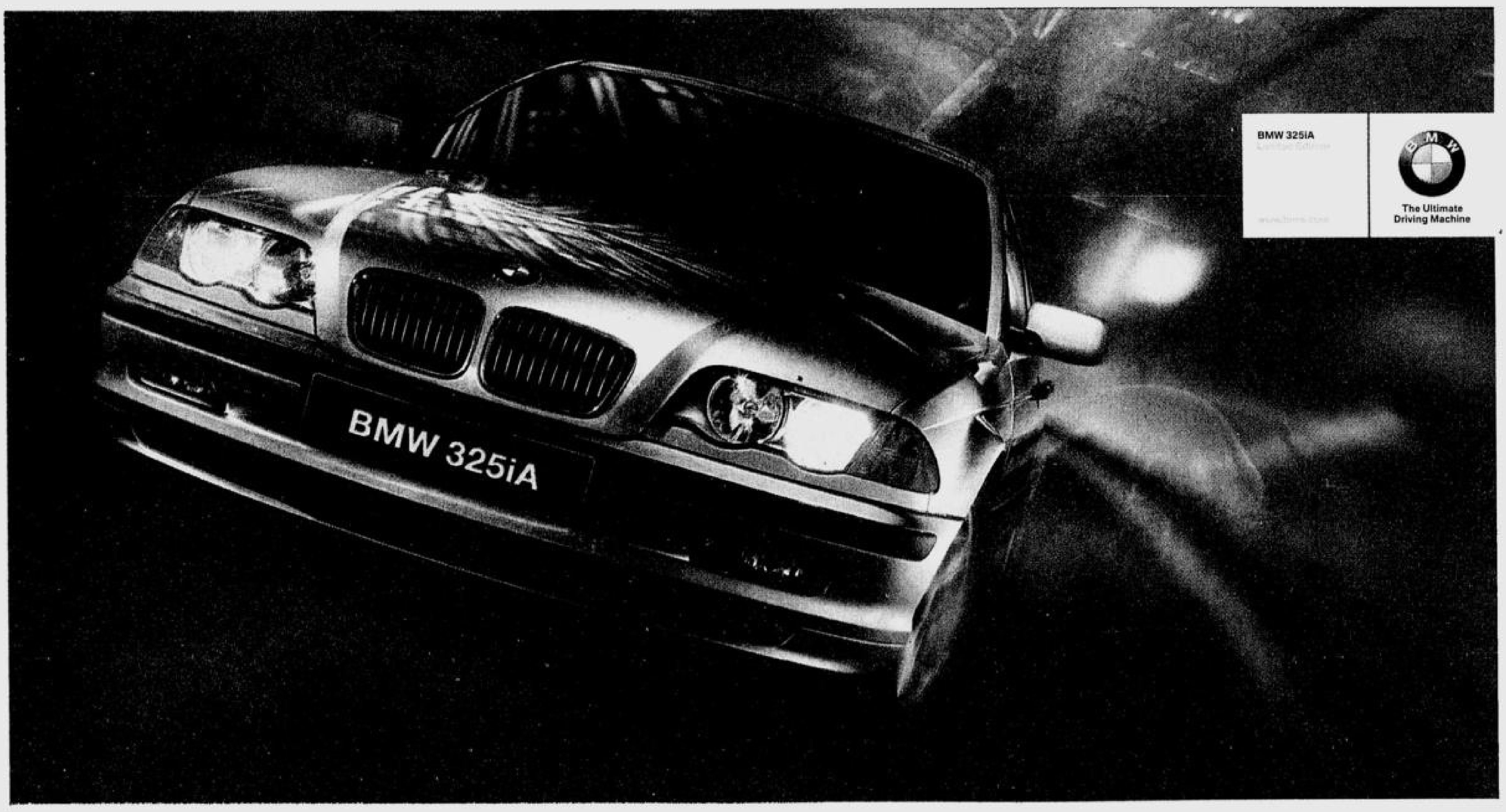
BUSINESS DATA MANAGEMENT USING ORACLE TECHNOLOGY will help IT Professionals become Oracle Database Programmers.

This specialization has the following components:
- ORDBMS Concepts with Oracle
- Client/Server Programming with Developer 6

Java and Oracle are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems and Oracle Corporation, respectively.

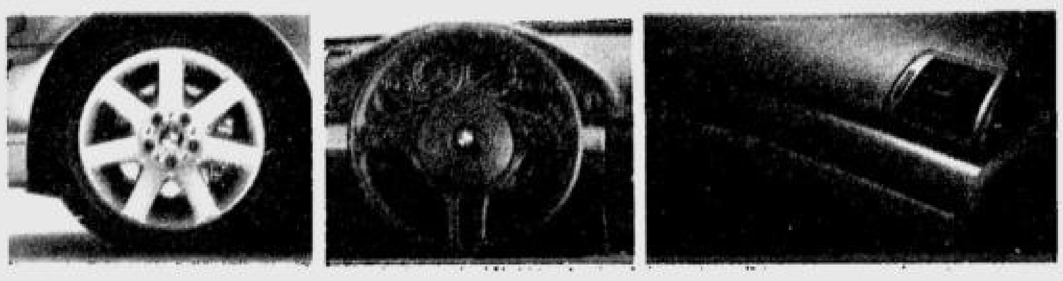
APTECH™ COMPUTER EDUCATION
UPGRADE YOURSELF!

You may enroll or inquire at the following APTECH Education Center:
ORTIGAS CENTER: 636-4382 to 84 email: ortigas@aptech-philippines.com



For those who appreciate the exceptional.
The BMW 325iA Limited Edition.

Introducing, the BMW 325IA Limited Edition. The best Sport Saloon is now sportier than ever. Inside the compartment, experience the feel and see the texture of the aluminum black cube strips, coupled with the new black multi-function steering wheel and leather shift knob. On the exterior, special 17-inch alloy wheels, rear tailpipe cutter and trunk spoiler add to the overall distinct finish. This unmatched value awaits a discerning few. Visit any authorized BMW dealer for full appreciation of the exceptional.



Authorised BMW Dealers:
Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
2324 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City
Tel. Nos. 892-81-27 to 29 • 817-80-49
Fax 816-73-25

PGA Cars, Inc.
201 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 724-09-64 • 727-03-86 • 727-03-81 to 85 • 727-03-88 to 89
Fax 727-03-80

Prestige Cars, Inc.
184-A E. Rodriguez Ave. Libis, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 638-07-34 to 43 • 438-04-22
Fax 438-04-19

Wheels, Inc.
222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 721-84-77 • 721-84-39 • 411-35-80
Fax 727-63-37

Belle moves to avoid defaulting on $34.2M in debts due in May

By Doris C. Dumlao

LEISURE estate and gaming firm Belle Corp. is seeking the 10-year restructuring of $34.2 million (around P1.74 billion) worth of fixed-rate treasury notes set to mature next month.

The company issued a total of $68.5 million in fixed-rate treasury notes, which comprise the biggest bulk of its P6.5-billion debt burden.

Belle also owes German lender Deutsche Bank AG some $17 million and another P2 billion to a group of local banks.

In an interview on Friday, Belle vice chair Willy Ocier said the company was also trying to convince its bondholders to convert half of the fixed-rate treasury notes in their possession into equities.

Belle hopes to complete the 10-year restructuring of $34.2 million worth of fixed-rate treasury notes next month or June.

"Our primary intention is to stop the bleeding of Belle, and the first and foremost step is to restructure the (treasury notes)," Ocier told reporters.

Belle chief financial officer Manuel Gana said the company was bent on avoiding defaulting on its obligations due to mature next month.

Belle has spun off P7.7 billion worth of assets into a new property unit—Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc.—to continue the development of a high-end property in Tagaytay south of Metro Manila.

It has begun selling shares in the new company to raise funds that it plans to use to trim its debts.

Belle has already raised over P2.8 billion from the sale of a 53-percent stake in Highlands to retail tycoon Henry Sy and is getting another P713 million by selling secondary shares through an initial public offering.

Ocier expressed optimism that the creation of Highlands would help reverse Belle's fortunes. Before Highlands was formed, Belle has been plagued by "bad management, lack of focus and discipline and crippling debt," he said.

After the Highlands offering, Belle will be able to cut its debts to P3.5 billion, according to Ocier.

PSE chief pushes move to extend trading hours to 4 p.m.

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is moving to further extend its daily trading hours to 4 p.m., heeding a petition from foreign brokers that this will make the local bourse attractive to European investors.

PSE Chair Vivian Yuchengco said on Friday that she would ask the co-chairs of the floor arbitration and trading committee, Alejandro Yu and Eddie Gobing, to again modify the stock exchange's current schedule.

The stock exchange, which used to operate on a half-day basis, began trading up to 2:30 p.m. only on Feb. 20. It used to hold trading from 9:30 a.m. to noon before the adjustment.

Yuchengco said she felt it was now the right time to extend trading up to 4 p.m. in response to pleas from foreign brokers with operations in Europe, who said the extension would give their clients more time to trade in Philippine stocks.

She clarified, however, that stockbrokerages would not be compelled to observe the new schedule, as some were insisting that longer trading hours would also mean higher operating costs.

"It's good for us, especially now that the market is improving," Yuchengco said.

Retail tycoon Henry Sy, whose blue-chip SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's biggest mall operator, is a consistent stock market favorite, said, meanwhile, that he supported moves to extend the PSE's trading hours.

Sy was at the stock exchange on Friday for a signing ceremony involving the initial public offering of Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc.

Sy, who owns a 53-percent stake in Highlands, is also providing the market with the biggest offering in many years with the listing of his banking unit, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, this May.

"That's the only way to get more businesses," Sy said. "You pay the same salaries so why not extend the trading hours?"

Stockbroker William Ang of Astra Securities Corp., a member of the PSE settlement committee, said the group of foreign brokers that earlier proposed to extend the PSE's trading hours submitted a new petition reiterating their appeal.

The foreign brokers informed the committee that traders in Europe normally worked on Asian stocks between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. in London, or between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in Manila.

Ang Tan Golf Club & Shares, Inc.
SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
268 Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City

SELLING		BUYING:	
Alabang A/B	1.75M/1.7M	Alabang A/B	650M/1.65M
Baguio [illegible]	725,000	Alta Vista	260,000
Camp John Hay [illegible]	250,000	Baguio Country Club	725,000
Canlubang Golf	100,000	Calatagan A	80,000
Canyon Woods	180,000	Camp John Hay Golf	270,000
Club Filipino	155,000	Capitol Hills	130,000
CC at Tagaytay Highlands	420,000	Celebrity	180,000
Fontana D	65,000	CC at Tagaytay Highland	400,000
Fontana C	70,000	Eagle Ridge A/B/C	335,000/400/560
Forest Hills A/B/C	200/280/270	Forest Hills A/B/C	220/230/270
Manila Golf (Indiv.)/Corp.	10.1M/15M	Manila Golf (Indiv.)/Corp.	10M/11M
Manila Southwoods A/B	650/700	Manila Polo	2.7M
Makati Sports A/B	250,000/250	Manila Southwoods A/B	600/700
Metropolitan A/B	120/160	Makati Sports A/B	250/250
Mimosa	120,000	Orchard A/B/C	220/230/320
Mt. Malarayat A/B/C	350/400/550	Quezon City Sports	210,000
Orchard A/B/C	220/230/320	Riviera A/B/C	185/250/350
Quezon City Sports	220,000	Sta. Elena A/B	1.6M/2.1M
Riviera A/B	185/250	Sherwood A	100,000
Royale Tagaytay	90,000	Tagaytay H'land Club/Golf	400/850
Sta. Elena A	1,677,000	Tagaytay Midlands	810,000
Sherwood A/B	100,000/150	Valley Golf	240,000
Subic Yacht (Indiv.)	170,000	Wack Wack	6,800,000
Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf	420/850		
Tagaytay Midlands	815,000		
Valley Golf	250,000		
Wack Wack	6,590,000		

Other shares & playing rights available

Connie Ang
Trading Manager/Real Estate Broker
Carnation Garden House & 283 only Valley golf 5,000 m2 House P16M only, Royal Pines P12M House Greenhills, Tagaytay Highlands Spa & lodge, Highlands Condo & LOL Woodlands.
Tels: (24 Hours)
253-0008 • 256-3188 • 256-6001•0919-3577282

shareXCHANGE
OVER 25 YEARS IN COMBINED CLUB SHARES EXPERIENCE | SEC LIC#99

Partial List: Please Call for Other Clubs @ 04/05/02

		SELLING AT	BUYING AT	Last Date at Same Asked Price
1.	ALABANG "A"	----	1,000,000	- -
2.	BAGUIO CC	715,000	----	Jun 95
3.	CALATAGAN GC "A"	90,000	----	May 93
4.	CANLUBANG GC	625,000	- -	Dec 93
5.	CAPITOL HILLS	CALLNOW	120,000	----
6.	CC AT TAGAYTAY	CALLNOW	----	----
7.	CELEBRITY CLUB	CALLNOW	----	----
8.	EAGLERIDGE "A"	----	300,000	----
9.	EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	----	----
10.	EVERCREST "A"	CALLNOW	----	----
11.	LUISITA G&CC "A"	----	300,000	----
12.	MAKATI SPORTS "A"	----	250,000	----
13.	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	CALLNOW	----	----
14.	MANILA POLO CLUB	----	CALLNOW	----
15.	MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"/"B"	67M/.73M	----	<Pls sell
16.	MT. MALARAYAT "A"	----	350,000	----
17.	ORCHARD "A"/"C"	24M/.55M	----	<Pls sell
18.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	CALLNOW	200,000	----
19.	RIVIERA GCC "A"	CALLNOW	----	----
20.	STA. ELENA "A"	----	1,700,000	- -
21.	SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	----	CALLNOW	----
22.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	900,000	----	Sep 95
23.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	750,000	----	----
24.	THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALLNOW	----	----
25.	WACK WACK GOLF	CALLNOW	6,800,000	

AVAILABLE CLUBS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG GC "A"	25,000	MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000
CANLUBANG GC	60,000	RIVIERA CC "A"	15,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	STA. ELENA "A"	60,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	45,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

A partial list of [illegible] Clubs

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CANYON WOODS	CC @ TAGAYTAY	ORCHARD "A"	STA. ELENA "A"
CAPITOL HILLS	FOREST HILLS "A"	ORCHARD "A"	TAGAYTAY HL GOLF
CC @ TAGAYTAY	PUNTA FUEGO	PUERTO AZUL	VALLE VERDE

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF APRIL 8, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,700,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,050,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	650,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	130,000	120,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		370,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	210,000	200,000
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	340,000	
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	280,000	250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	300,000	
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	11,000,000	
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,000,000	2,650,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	750,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	140,000	
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	330,000
26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	200,000
27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	370,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	250,000	230,000
32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"		1,700,000
33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		850,000
35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND		750,000
36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	240,000	200,000
38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		6,500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY, TRADING MANAGER
PAUL CORTEZ, PRESIDENT
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 CP#0917-8114892

Philcomsat takes in 3 gov't nominees

THE PHILIPPINE Communications Satellite Corp. has named three government nominees to its board, completing its new line-up and moving closer to ending its leadership row.

"In view of the competitive business environment in the telecommunications industry, it becomes more crucial to resolve the board dispute and focus on effectively managing the company into financial stability, to the benefit of the shareholders, government and the public in general," Philcomsat officer-in-charge Victor Africa said in a statement issued Monday.

The new Philcomsat board now consists of Africa, Manuel Nieto Jr., Honorio Poblador III, Erlinda Illusorio-Bildner, Francisca "Kitchie" Benedicto, Katrina Ponce-Enrile, and Presidential Commission on Good Government appointees Enrique Locsin, Julio Jalandoni and Manuel Andal.

The three appointees represent a 35-percent stake sequestered by the government that the PCGG is safeguarding.

Africa's designation as Philcomsat's officer-in-charge will last only until the board elects a new set of officers.

The six other board members represent each of the families that own founding shares in Philcomsat.

Africa said it could take 10 to 15 days before the board could elect a new set of officers.

"Having assessed the situation at Philcomsat, somehow or another, there must be some kind of agreement that would finally bring peace among the shareholders," he said.

In March, a group identified with Nieto elected its own set of officers, with PCGG appointee Locsin named as chair.

The Nieto-elected board, however, did not include Andal, director of the Presidential Management Staff, who was appointed to replace holdover director Edgardo Villanueva.

A new set of directors was elected on Friday during a special stockholders meeting held by Philcomsat's parent firm, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. *Abigail L. Ho*

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
As of April 6, 2002

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,700,000	
Alabang Country Club "B"	1,800,000	
Alta Vista		260,000
Baguio Country Club	740,000	650,000
Camp John Hay	280,000	260,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	140,000	115,000
Canyon Woods	200,000	190,000
Canlubang		
Celebrity Sports	230,000	170,000
City Sports Club		Pls. Call
Eagleridge "A"	350,000	
Eastridge	200,000	
Evercrest	100,000	90,000
Fairways & Blue Waters	500,000	
Fontana DIC	90,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Forest Hills "A"	230,000	210,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	240,000
Luisita Golf		320,000
Manila Polo		2,600,000
Makati Sports Club	300,000	250,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	650,000	620,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3	100,000/300,000*	120,000/275,000*
Mt. Malarayat	350,000	
Orchard	230,000	210,000
Phil. Columbian	90,000	60,000
Punta Fuego	600,000	550,000
Puerto Azul	170,000	
Quezon City Sports Club	240,000	200,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"	200,000/450,000*	
Riviera Golf "B"	250,000	
Rockwell	400,000	370,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C	80,000/140,000	Pls. Call
Sherwoods		100,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	400,000	330,000
Subic Golf	100,000	
Tagaytay Country Club		380,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC		850,000
Tagaytay Midlands		780,000
Valley Golf & CC		230,000
Valle Verde (Indiv.)	175,000	160,000

FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE Looking For Forest Hills Inactive Share
TL 6836309/Tel. No: 6359918/6359830/(0919)7041848
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat., 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007076 * As of April 8, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,600,000	1,800,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	Please Call
Baguio Country Club	700,000	750,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	Please Call	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"		100,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	240,000
Canlubang		Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	340,000
Capitol Hills	110,000	130,000
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	195,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"		100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	230,000
Forest Hills "B"		240,000
Forest Hills "C"		270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	260,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)		16,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	7,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	640,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	680,000	760,000
Metropolitan Club "B"		140,000
Monserrat (Individual)		10,000
Monserrat (Corp)	80,000	
Mt. Malarayat		360,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	220,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	230,000	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"		300,000
Philippine Columbian		85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"		Please Call
Puerto Azul		125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"		Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	90,000	160,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		330,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)		190,000
Tagaytay Country Club	390,000	410,000
Tagaytay Highlands	850,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	150,000	180,000
Valley Golf	240,000	
Wack-Wack Golf Club	7,000,000	7,200,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Md.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
MAKATI 840-1761 • Fax 894-3021 / 750-7694
ALABANG 850-8223 • Fax 772-1617
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
Penthouse, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
GET OUR LATEST CLUB SHARE QUOTES BY TEXTING
GGA HELP
to 2333 for GLOBE Handyphone subscribers
or 288 for Smart Gold & Buddy subscribers
Visit us at www.ggaclubshares.com

DOF says revoking order on loans to poor a mistake

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines are asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to uphold ousted President Joseph Estrada's directive allowing only government financial institutions to extend funds to marginalized groups directly or through rural banks, cooperatives and nongovernment financial institutions.

Ms Macapagal assured last week a group of cooperative banks in Baguio that she would revoke Executive Order No. 138, which Estrada issued in 2000 upon the recommendation of the National Credit Council.

The credit council strongly pushed for the issuance of the executive order after finding out that many livelihood loans coursed by the trade and agriculture departments were fraudulent or were not being properly collected.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is now trying to persuade the President to reconsider her position on the issue. He says the government is now implementing the executive order and transferring funds under directed credit programs to government financial institutions.

In a position paper, Landbank stressed that EO 138 would bar agencies without financial expertise from implementing credit programs and enhance the private sector's in providing financial services to basic sectors.

The bank also pointed out that the executive order was in line with the government's policies to adhere to market-determined interest rates on loans and deposits and provide critical support and capacity building services to the private sector. *Elena R.*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 5, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67.5	66.5	67.5	607,500
China Banking Corp.	615	615	615	615	400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43	43	41	41.5	1,237,300
First E-Bank Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.06	50,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	81.5	81.5	81.5	81.5	22,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	43	43	42	42.5	4,250,100
Philippine National Bank	65	65	61.5	63	700
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	1,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	24	22.5	23.5	201,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.5	280,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	245	245	245	245	60
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1310	1310	1310	20
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	320,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1085	1090	1085	1090	14,710
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	9,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	805	805	10,600
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	6,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	50,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	4,700,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	550	560	555	560	87,720
Ivantage Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	380,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	90,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	32.5	31	32	232,300
Manila Electric Co. B	47	49	47	48.5	911,700
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.72	1.74	8,784,000
Salcon Power Corp	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	715,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.6	2,108,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.39	300,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5	5	5	5	2,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.1	2.1	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	265,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23	23.25	22.75	22.75	222,100
RFM Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	100,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.92	1.7	1.9	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	48	48	142,700
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	62	62	402,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	11.5	11.5	11	11	6,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
Atok-Big Wedge Inc. B	10	10	10	10	1,000
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.4	6.4	64.	101,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2	2.02	2	2.02	167,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	70,000
APC Group Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.81	0.78	0.78	5,730,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,110,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.1	0.09	0.09	7,700,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	244,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	284,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,100,000
Ionics Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	41,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.84	1.86	442,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	2,090,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.55	0.58	960,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	8,360,000
Music Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	800,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	330,000
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	13	13	89,200
Steniel Manufacturing	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.62	0.64	0.62	0.63	23,350,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	120,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	120,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.4	230,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38	38	37	37.5	554,900
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	770	775	770	775	2,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.68	165,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	795	795	790	790	5,200
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	4,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	0.0004	20,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	35,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.3	7	7.3	26,686,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	540,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	4,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	620,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.42	.32	0.30	5,429,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	600,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.35	710,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	2,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.085	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.8	6,212,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	1,400,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030	3,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2	2	2	2	7,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.05	0.05	0.047	0.048	60,300,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng Co. A	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,300,000
Omico Corporation	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	36,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	6,100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000

CURRENCIES

April 5, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.137915	1.000000	51.1050
Japan	Yen	0.008600	0.007558	0.3863
United Kingdom	Pound	1.632226	1.434400	73.3050
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145904	0.128220	6.5527
Switzerland	Franc	0.683227	0.600420	30.6845
Canada	Dollar	0.714233	0.627668	32.0770
Singapore	Dollar	0.617929	0.543036	27.7519
Australia	Dollar	0.603669	0.530504	27.1114
Bahrain	Dinar	3.018504	2.652661	135.5642
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303437	0.266660	13.6277
Brunei	Dollar	0.616255	0.541565	27.6767
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000104	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.026111	0.022946	1.1727
UAE	Dirham	0.309822	0.272272	13.9145
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000757	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.878800	44.9111
Brazil	Real	0.493887	0.434028	22.1810
Denmark	Kroner	0.134347	0.118064	6.0337
India	Rupee	0.023308	0.020483	1.0468
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.299491	0.263193	13.4505
Mexico	New Peso	0.126127	0.110840	5.6645
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500799	0.440102	22.4914
Norway	Kroner	0.130603	0.114774	5.8655
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019109	0.016793	0.8582
South Africa	Rand	0.101600	0.089286	4.5630
Sweden	Kroner	0.110660	0.097248	4.9699
Syria	Pound	0.022095	0.019417	0.9923
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.036050	0.028653	1.4643
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001286	0.001130	0.0577

Roxas, BOI exec at odds over auto tax reform

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II and Board of Investments managing chair Gregory Domingo are reportedly at odds over the proposed tax reform in the automotive industry, specifically on the lifting of the tax exemption enjoyed by Asian utility vehicles (AUV).

Roxas is batting to either retain the AUV's tax-free status or limit its excise tax to between one and 3 percent for models worth P600,000 or less in order to keep these best-selling workhorses affordable to buyers. Domingo, however, wants to scrap the AUV's tax-free status saying that the AUVs should be paying the same taxes levied on other vehicles with the same prices.

Interestingly, the Roxas-Domingo split on the tax reform proposal—which has been blamed for the delay in finalizing the proposed tax reforms—mirrored the battle lines drawn among the industry players on this issue.

Roxas' views tallied with the position taken by Japanese assemblers such as Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. (Tamaraw), Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (Adventure) and Isuzu Philippines (Hi-Lander) while Domingo's stand is fully backed up by Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc.

Roxas denied any rift between him and Domingo on the tax reform proposal. He admitted, however, that his department has yet to come up with its final recommendation on the issue. The industry's tax reform proposal has been on the table for nearly two years now.

Aside from the AUV issue, the DTI has yet to agree whether to retain the current system of basing a vehicle's excise tax on its fuel type and engine size or shift to wholesale price as basis.

The Japanese assemblers have strongly opposed the shift in valuation basis considering that their models have modest engine-displacements. Ford, which is keen on putting more gas guzzling models in its showrooms, has been the leading advocat of the shift to wholesale prices.

Some officials of the DTI are wary of adopting wholesale prices as basis for taxing vehicles in view of the tobacco industry's bad experience with this system. Unscrupulous cigarette makers set up dozens of marketing companies to front as buyers in order to keep prices of the products at low levels.

Marketing blitz seen to boost RP tourism

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon is ready to match up Cebu City against Phuket in Thailand, Boracay against Guam in the Marianas Islands, and Bohol against Bali in Indonesia.

This is the first volley of the Philippines' international marketing blitz, which is designed to counter economic threats from China.

Gordon revealed here on Saturday that China was the real long-term threat to Philippine economics, which an upbeat tourism program aimed to address today.

He said China had started to draw away manufacturing and related industry investments from Asian countries like Indonesia and Malaysia, as soon as it enlisted with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"In the coming days, China is going to suck more of the investments and we will lose more and more of the investments," he said.

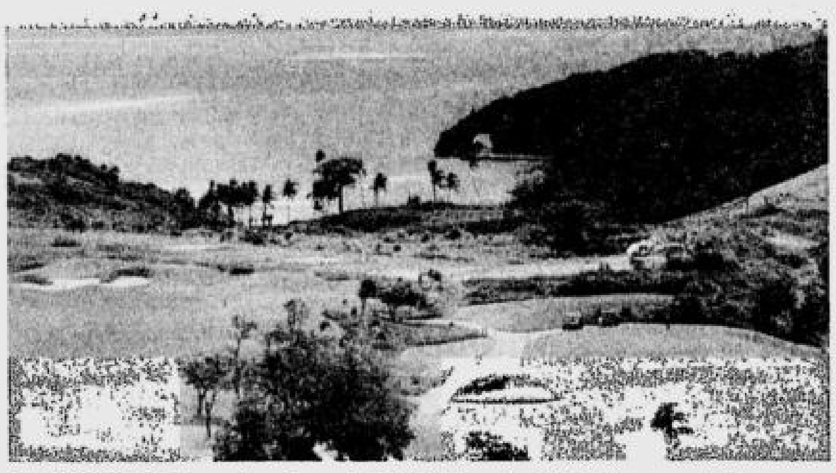
He said tourism was Asia's most cost-effective response to the Chinese economic onslaught.

Gordon discussed the geopolitical situations of Southeast Asian tourism during a general assembly here of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association.

He also said Malacañang was proposing to Congress the creation of tourism economic zones to help draw tourism infrastructure investments to vital vacation spots, which may replace special economic zones as capital vectors in Southeast Asia.

He said the Maldive Islands near Sri Lanka, "which is in danger of disappearing in 2050 because of global warming," lured about 395 million to 467 million visitors in 1997 alone, while the Philippines attracted only about 1.9 million tourists in 2000 and 1.8 million last year.

But the country's "tourism economics" will not all be about match-ups.



FAIRWAYS & Bluewater Resort Golf & Country Club, Newcoast, Boracay

Gordon said he was also proposing a "twinning" of resources with tourist rivals Indonesia or Malaysia, particularly in air transport to soften or partially subsidize the cost of domestic and international travel between the two countries.

He said most Asian countries would need to cooperate in order to optimize the use of their meager resources, even if it meant "pushing over" the flag carrier Philippine Airlines in the process.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself validated this economic trend on March 30 here.

"Tourism is nothing for us to make fun of . . . The competitive advantage of the Philippines is intensive skills in the service sectors such as information and communication technology and tourism. (These are) major sources of jobs," Ms Macapagal said.

"You only need $5 million (in service industries) to hire thousands of workers. But in the traditional manufacturing sector, you need $500 million to hire (the same number of) workers," she added.

Gordon disclosed that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had realigned $70 million in 2000 and P180 million this year to Malaysian tourism, in reaction to the depleting investments for manufacturing and other related industries in Malaysia. About 13 million tourists trooped to Malaysia in 2000.

Gordon said he was inclined "to do a Subic for tourism" to wrangle exchange deals and volunteer work for hefty publicity for Cebu, Bohol and Boracay.

By going "Subic," Gordon was referring to the turnabout of the economies of Olongapo City and the Subic Bay area in Zambales after the 1991 withdrawal of American military bases. He credited this turnabout to "pure community volunteer work."

Gordon said he was tapping a similar volunteer support team from 7 million Filipino expatriates and overseas Filipino workers to market the country's vacation spots to their neighbors there.

He said volunteer work would take the place of capital pump priming. The Philippines generated only $660,000 to market its tourism in 2000, compared with Thailand's $45-million budget, Hong Kong's $66 million, Malaysia's $70 million and Singapore's $70 million.

All these Asian countries compete for Japanese tourists, whose combined expenses in "hotel and even chewing gum bills," already represents substantial profits for countries like the Philippines.

Gordon said the country's "game plan" is to target countries with "high returns on investments."

He said a dollar's worth of advertising and marketing investment in Korea means a return in 217 Korean visitors, while a dollar spent in marketing tourism to Japan is equivalent to 62 Japanese visitors.

Despite

From page B1

go the TRM route because it could not reverse the Tariff Commission's rejection of the petition to impose punitive duties and import quotas on cement imports under the Safeguard Measures Law.

The DTI presently imposes a provisional duty of P20.60 per bag of imported cement. It had planned to either impose punitive duties or extend the provisional duty.

However, after a closer reading of the law, Roxas said the DTI's only option was to continue collecting the provisional duty up to its full 200-day period, ending on June 28.

The government has so far collected P70 million from the provisional duty since it was imposed last December.

Roxas earlier noted that cement prices had fallen from P145 to P125 per bag in December since the duty was imposed.

Consumer groups have pointed out, however, that prices fell only because the DTI demanded this from the manufacturers.

Three months after the provisional duty was imposed, prices of cement have crept up to a peak of P145 per bag as the slowdown in imports led to a shortage of supply during the cyclical peak of the construction industry.

CB Richard Ellis

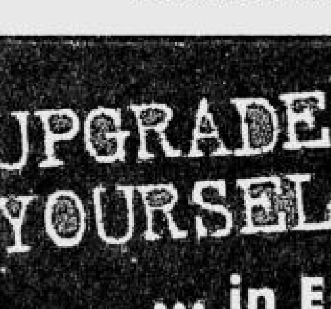
Quality Semiconductor & Electronic Manufacturing Facility in Laguna
For Sale or Lease
Gross Floor Area: 45,000.00 sqm
- Located in Carmelray Industrial Park 1 (PEZA)
- Fully-fitted Facility

CALL 752 2580 or 848 7388

Tony Torrijos
ttorrijos@cbre.com

Rick Santos
rsantos@cbre.com

www.cbre.com


DELOS REYES
ADELINA ST.
CATALUNA ST.
ELOGIA ST.
P. NOVAL ST.
USI
P. CAMPA ST.
ESPAÑA
APTECH
GALICIA ST.
LEPANTO

UPGRADE YOURSELF . . .
... in España!

APTECH™
COMPUTER EDUCATION

NOW OPEN IN ESPAÑA, MANILA

Information Technology is an endless ocean with innumerable islands of opportunities before the horizon.

Aptech takes great pride in being able to discover these new opportunities earlier and faster than most computer education institutions.

At Aptech, students come with diverse needs. Aptech fulfills their needs by providing a comprehensive array of internationally designed courses. The two-year Aptech curriculum is composed of subjects in every conceivable area of IT-Software Engineering, Networking, Web Technology, Client-Server Technology and much more.

Aptech Manila will soon open its doors to serve the needs of students wishing to embark on a profitable career in Information Technology. Call or visit us now and inquire about the ACCP 2003 curriculum.

For more details, visit or call:
2nd Floor Laboda Center
1139 España Ave. cor. Adelina St.
Sampaloc, Manila
736-2134 to 35
manila@aptech-philippines.com

www.aptech-globaltraining.com

APTECH WORLDWIDE
Philippine Regional Office
Agustin I Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. No: (63 2) 636-4382 to 84 Fax No: (63 2) 636-4384 e-mail: inquiry@aptech-philippines.com
Website: www.aptech-globaltraining.com

BMW 3 Series

Now the thrill
of ultimate driving
is even more competitive.

The new BMW 3 Series is loaded with new features that take the most successful sport saloon a decisive step forward. And this step forward is also mirrored by the equally impressive finance conditions shown below. To find out more about this outstanding finance program, contact us today.

Model	Retail price	Downpayment	Monthly rate
316i	P1,575,000	P551,250	**P25,000**
318i	2,050,000	717,500	**32,000**
318i Exec	2,200,000	770,000	**34,500**
318i M Sport	2,300,000	805,000	**36,000**
325i Exec	2,735,000	957,250	**42,500**

60 months to pay
Participating Banks: BPI Family Bank and Union Bank

The Ultimate Driving Machine
BMW 3 Series
Finance Plan

Authorised BMW Dealers:

Prestige Cars, Inc.
184-A E. Rodriguez Ave. Libis, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 438-04-22 • 636-07-34 to 43
Fax 438-04-19

Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
2324 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City
Tel. Nos. 892-81-27 to 29 • 817-80-49
Fax 816-73-25

PGA Cars, Inc.
201 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 724-09-61 • 727-03-86 • 727-03-81 to 85 • 727-03-88 to 89
Fax 727-03-90

Wheels, Inc.
222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 721-84-77 • 721-84-39 • 411-35-80
Fax 727-63-37

Falling water supply is world's biggest issue

SYDNEY—A lack of clean water will be the biggest issue facing the world in the next 50 years, and governments and business are failing to face up to the challenge, a senior Australian researcher said on Monday.

Graham Harris of the state-funded Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization told an environment conference in Melbourne that business needed to understand its dependence on the environment and create a new economic framework that focused on longer-term returns.

"Even if human populations were to level off in the next 50 years, we will require double the present supply of energy, materials and water. Water is the big issue for the next 50 years," Harris said in a prepared speech.

"The vast majority of the world's people already have only limited access to clean water, basic shelter and adequate food, and the situation is not going to get any better. Without water, food, shelter and compassion, we are all lost."

Harris told delegates at the Enviro 2002 conference that the Australian government's actions, for instance, "fail to reflect the urgency . . . We talk too much and act too slowly."

The conference followed another in Melbourne last week that focused on the impact cities have on the ecosystem with more than half of the world's population living in urban areas.

At the end of that earlier meeting, around 40 environmental experts from around the world called on governments to control urban water use as a key part of creating "sustainable cities."

"A lot of people think 'if I've got lots of green parks and gardens, that's fantastic,'" said Harry Blutstein, director of sustainable development for the Environmental Protection Authority of the Australian state of Victoria.

"But hang on. They're using enormous amounts of water, often not recycled water. Perhaps an Australian city has to look a bit browner during its summer," he told Reuters on Monday. ***Reuters***

Scandal-hit Firestone wins big tire contract with GM

TOKYO—The US subsidiary of Japan's top tire maker, Bridgestone Corp., rocked by scandals since August 2000, has won a tire contract with General Motors Corp., a company source said Monday.

"It is a fact that we have a contract (with GM), but we cannot speak about the details," the Bridgestone source told AFP, declining to say when the deal was signed.

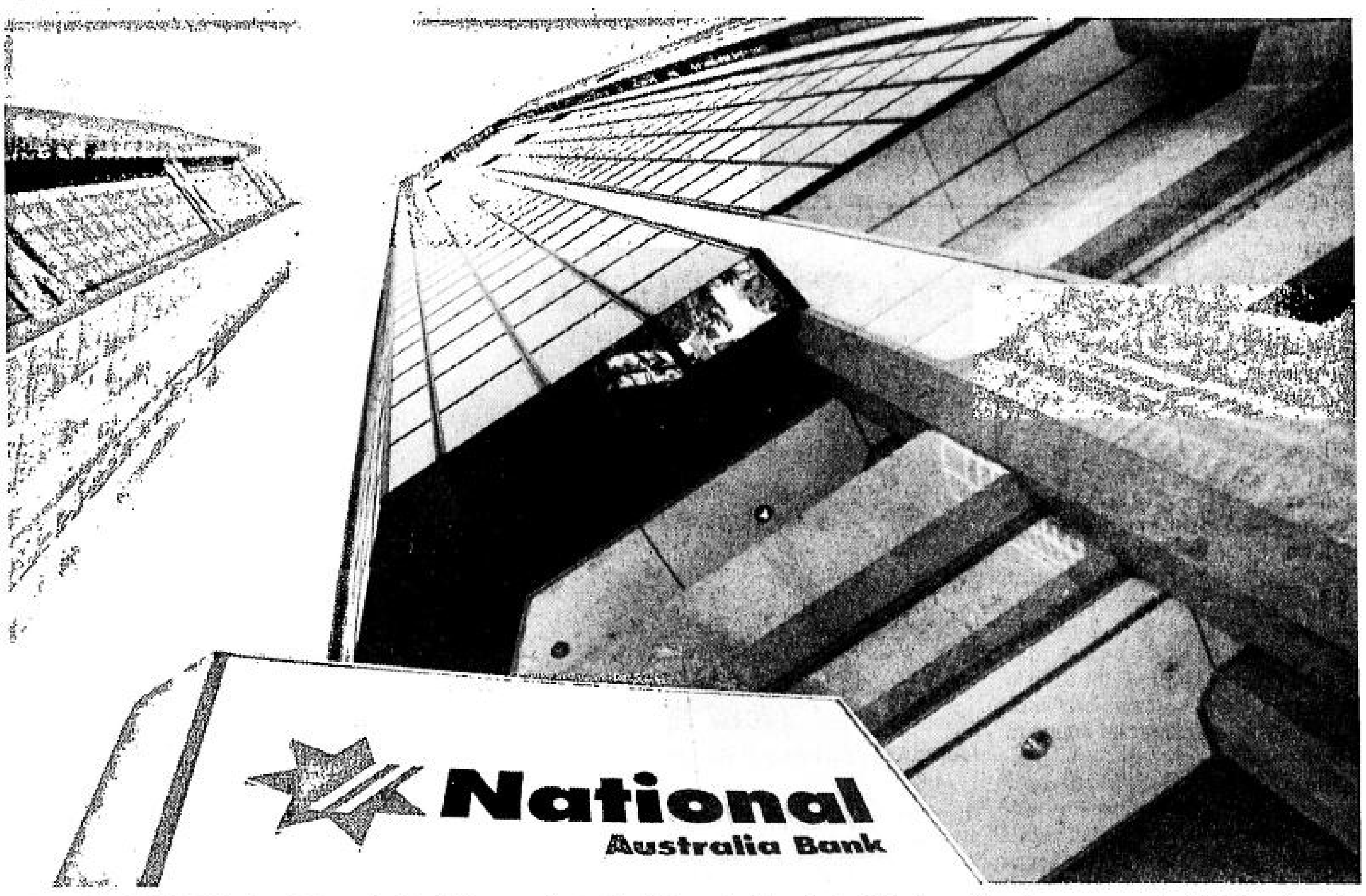
It would be the first major contract for Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. since the firm recalled millions of tires after a string of fatal accidents involving its products on Ford Motor Co. vehicles.

Bridgestone/Firestone will expand a tire plant in Canada to meet an order for 2.5 million tires per year for GM's remodeled Saturn Ion and Chevrolet Malibu vehicles due out this autumn, the Nihon Keizai newspaper said, quoting company sources.

Bridgestone will invest 5 billion yen ($38.1 million) to expand the daily 15,000-tire output at its Quebec plant by 10 percent to 15 percent, it said.

The firm had scaled back operations at its US unit, closing down a factory in Decatur, Illinois, last December to leave just 11 plants in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Bridgestone/Firestone became embroiled in a major dispute with Ford after a series of deadly accidents involving Ford Explorer vehicles fitted with Firestone tires, which US authorities said claimed 271 lives. ***AFP***



THE ENTRANCE of National Australia Bank House reflects the Sydney skyline. Australia's largest bank announces that it plans to sack 2,050 employees as part of a major restructuring of its worldwide operations. Most of the job losses are expected to be in the bank's administration and back office areas, where new technology and process re-engineering are to help streamline operations. AFP

Australia's biggest bank to sack over 2,000 workers

SYDNEY—Australia's biggest bank, National Australia Bank Ltd., said Monday it would sack more than 2,000 employees as part of a major restructuring of its worldwide operations.

Around 1,500 job losses will be in Australia, and most are expected to be in the bank's administration and back office areas, which are being streamlined through new technology.

"On a group basis, including the Australian redundancies, the redundancy figure is expected to be 2,050," the bank said.

"Overall, there will be a reduction of 3,400 positions, but this will be offset by the creation of 1,400 new positions and natural attrition and redeployment."

The redundancies are expected to cost between A$175 million (US$93 million) and A$225 million this year.

Details of the cuts come after the NAB confirmed last week it would shut 56 branches in rural areas across Australia.

The restructuring followed losses by the NAB of US$2 billion through its US mortgage subsidiary, HomeSide, late last year.

NAB chief executive Frank Cicutto said several hundred million dollars of new investment would be made in growth areas of the bank as part of the restructuring plan.

Cost savings of A$370 million were expected by September 2004 as a result, he said.

The main areas of investment would include A$200 million for NAB's wealth management division over the next three years to create a market leading adviser system in Australia.

The bank said its earnings growth in 2003 and 2004 would benefit from efficiency and revenue gains.

Its financial targets to 2004 included cash earnings per share growth of between 7 and 10 percent in 2001/02 and more than 12 percent in 2003 and 2004.

Return on equity was also expected to top 18 percent a year.

NAB shares fell 14 cents to A$31.55 following the announcement. ***AFP***

HOWEVER MUCH YOU'VE GOT, YOU STILL BREATHE THE SAME AIR.
RICH OR POOR, WE ALL SUFFER EQUALLY FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. REPORT SMOKE-BELCHING
VEHICLES TO BANTAY-USOK AT 925 [illegible] OR 925 5555. BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT TIME WE OPENED OUR MOUTHS.
BANTAY-USOK

SPACE DONATED BY THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sony Ericsson to set up cell unit in China

TOKYO—Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications said Monday that it was forming a Beijing-based subsidiary, planned by the end of May, to bolster the newly merged company's penetration of the Chinese market.

Japan's Sony Corp. combined with Sweden's Ericsson last October to form Sony Ericsson. In China, however, the two companies still market handsets separately under their individual brand names.

Setting up the subsidiary is the first step in introducing Sony Ericsson products there, Sony Ericsson spokesperson Utako Higuchi said.

The subsidiary, yet to be named, will be fully owned and based in Beijing.

Sony already has operations there, while Ericsson runs plants in Beijing and Nanjing.

The venture is still pending approval from Chinese authorities, Higuchi said.

Sony Ericsson's Beijing-based arm will concentrate on making GSM mobile phones for the Chinese market, but it will also be a platform for introducing next generation, or 3G, mobile phones when the technology is introduced to China, sometime after 2003.

Sony Ericsson holds the third largest share of the global mobile phone market after Finnish firm Nokia Corp. and US company Motorola Inc.

In a bid to boost that stake, the company is focusing on China, where the number of mobile phone subscribers already exceeds 140 million people, making it the world's largest market.

AP

PCCW appoints former head of Lucent's Asia business as COO

HONG KONG—Leading Hong Kong telecommunications firm Pacific Century CyberWorks said Monday that it had appointed former Lucent Technologies executive Michael Butcher as chief operating officer.

Butcher is reportedly in line as a successor to founder Richard Li as chief executive, although the company describes this as "pure speculation."

PCCW said Butcher would immediately replace William Cheung, who resigned as chief operating officer.

Butcher was formerly president of Lucent Technologies international operations, after heading the company's Asia-Pacific business in Hong Kong.

"In addition to his knowledge and experience in Asia-Pacific, Mike's unique experience and background in systems integration solutions and services, combined with telecommunications, significantly strengthens the management team of PCCW for the next stage of development and growth of the company," Li said in a statement.

Li, the youngest son of Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing, had said as recently as last month that despite speculation, the company had no plans to find a replacement chief executive in the short term.

However, The Asian Wall Street Journal Monday cited an informed source as saying Li, who is also the firm's chair, had assured Butcher that he eventually would become chief executive, although no specific timetable was given.

PCCW spokesperson Joan Wagner told AFP she was unaware of the source of the report, adding theories surrounding Li's imminent replacement at the helm were pure speculation.

Dealers said the appointment of Butcher as chief operating officer was seen as mildly positive by investors.

AFP

An Important Advisory

TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES & LIBERAL ARTS / COMMERCE UNDERGRADUATES

Are you at a loss what career path or college course to pursue that will give you the assurance you will earn good money right after graduation or even **before you graduate**, and more after? You can make a wise choice **by enrolling in the *Paralegal Program of Arellano University* and the *Institute of Continuing Legal Studies & Education* (ICLSE), in which...**

you will acquire in just two and a half years or less special skills that will enable you, armed with a Certificate of Paralegal Competency and with the help of the University and the Institute of Continuing Legal Studies and Education, to find gainful employment as a legal, administrative or executive assistant in a law or business firm or non-business institution (for example, paralegals in ICLSE's Paralegal Services Bureau can earn as much as P 1,200 per day)...

even as you finish a unique course leading to the award of a Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Paralegal Studies, and go on to higher studies for a Bachelor of Laws/ Doctor of Jurisprudence degree or a master's degree in Management.

For liberal arts/commerce graduates who find difficulty landing good-paying jobs, the Institute offers them a special one and a half semester program leading to the award of a Certificate in Paralegal Competency and to another baccalaureate degree Major in Paralegal Studies and giving them the opportunity to solve their job-hunting problem.

This is the only course offered in the Philippines that provides the students with liberal education and office management, computer, shorthand and effective communication skills, along with a general and practical knowledge of substantive and procedural law and **on-the-job-training in law practice.**

JOIN A PROFESSION THAT IS CONSIDERED THE HOTTEST PROFESSION IN THE U.S.A. TODAY!

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH A GENERAL WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 80% OR ABOVE PROVIDED THE APPLICANT HAS AN AVERAGE GRADE OF 85% OR HIGHER IN ENGLISH

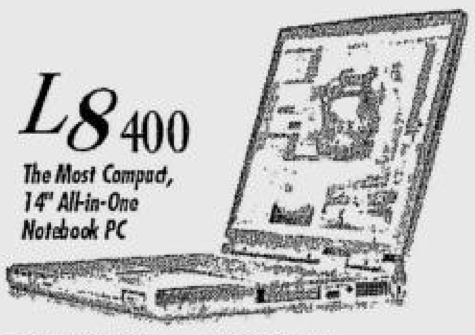
INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL SEMINAR, FREE OF CHARGE, ON THE PARALEGAL PROFESSION & THE PARALEGAL COURSE..

For your reservation, and for more information, contact Mrs. Guerrero, Ms. Beltran or Ms. Mendoza

THE INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING LEGAL STUDIES AND EDUCATION
Ocampo Heritage Building, 214 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 721-3470 • 721-3452 / Telefax Nos. 725-1481 • 724-0595 & 722-0432

ASUS The BEST Value Notebook PCs

Only ASUS gives true meaning for Best Value: its the reliability you get from its notebooks and the add-ons that goes with it--in a competitive price. ASUS Notebook PCs offer powerful accessories for your convenience, to enable you to enjoy the capabilities and explore the possibilities of mobile computing and communications.

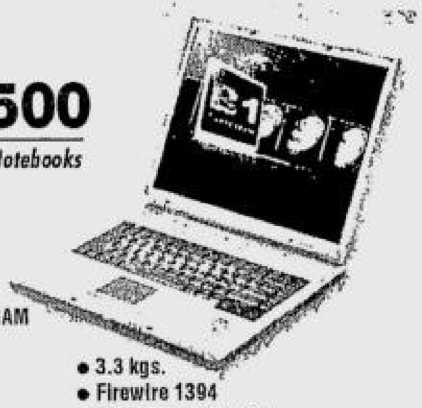


L8 400
The Most Compact, 14" All-in-One Notebook PC

- 14.1" TFT LCD
- 16 MB DDR RAM
- 20 GB HDD
- 1.44 FDD
- DVD ROM
- 56K Modem
- 10/100 LAN card
- Windows ME
- 2.9 kgs.
- Dual-View

Luxury Leather Bag · USB Mouse · Sleeve Bag

Intel® Pentium® III-1.13 GHz (256 MB SDRAM)- P 119,800
(**FREE:** Pentium® 4 Desktop PC-1.6 GHz)
Intel® Pentium® III-1.13 GHz (128 MB SDRAM) - P 98,000
(**FREE**: Palm M125)

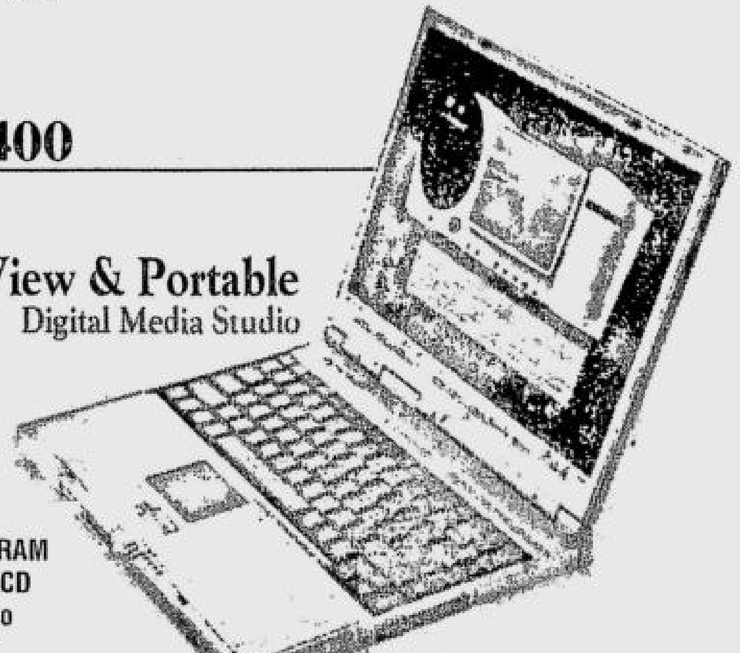


B1500
The Professional Notebooks for Professionals

- 256 MB SDRAM
- 15" TFT LCD
- 8 MB Video SGRAM
- 30 GB HDD
- 1.44 USB FDD
- 8X CD-RW
- 56K Modem
- 10/100 LAN card
- Dual Battery Support
- Windows ME
- 3.3 kgs.
- Firewire 1394
- Fingerprint Security
- Encryption Software
- **FREE**: Altec Lansing ADA 890 5 pc. Speaker System

Robust Bag · FDD Module · USB Mouse · Headset

Intel® Pentium® III-900 MHz - P 162,500
Intel® Pentium® III-850 MHz - P 159,500

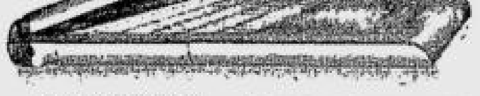


T9 400
Wide-View & Portable
Digital Media Studio

- 128 MB SDRAM
- 14.1" TFT LCD
- 11 MB Video
- 20 GB HDD
- 1.44 FDD Removable
- 24x CD-ROM (Ai-Box)
- 56K Modem
- 10/100 LAN card
- Windows ME
- 2.2 kgs.
- Firewire 1394

MP3 Player & Voice Recorder · Traveler Bag · USB Floppy Disk Drive · Headset · USB Mouse · AI Box

Intel® Pentium® III-900 MHz - P 92,000
Intel® Pentium® III-850 MHz - P 89,000



S8 600
Ultra Slim, Very Cool Spirit

- 128 MB SDRAM
- 12.1" TFT LCD
- 8 MB Video
- 10 GB HDD
- External 1.44 USB FDD
- 24xCD-ROM (AI Box)
- 56K Modem
- 10/100 LAN card
- Windows ME
- 1.7 kgs.

Classic Bag · Sleeve Bag · AI Box · USB Floppy Disk Drive · Headset · USB Mouse

Intel® Pentium® III-850 MHz - P83,500

M1 300
The Ultimate Mobile Office

- 128 MB SDRAM
- 13.3" TFT LCD
- 11 MB Video
- 20 GB HDD
- 1.44 FDD Removable
- 8x CD-RW
- 56K Modem
- 10/100 LAN card
- Windows ME
- 2.0 kgs.
- Firewire 1394

Leather Bag · FDD Module · USB Mouse · Headset

Intel® Pentium® III-850 MHz - P92,200

Other Optional Accessories Available:
DVD-ROM Module · CD-RW Module · CD-RW/DVD Module · PortBar · Port Replicator · Car Charger · USB Data Transfer Cable · Wireless LAN · Second Hard Disk Drive

Intel, Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation and Intel SpeedStep is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

www.asus.com.ph
Service Hotline: Manila (02) 724-9998

http://gsm.asus.com.tw

Authorized Philippine Distributor: Banbros Commercial Inc. No. 32 Pilar St. cor. Araullo St., Addition Hills, San Juan. • Tels.: 718-2808 • Visit us at: http://www.banbros.com.ph • E-mail us at: bc_sales@mydestiny.net / banbros@mydestiny.net

COMPlink BRANCHES: 3/L EXPANSION MALL-ROBINSON GALLERIA Tel. No.: 632-9896 • G/F CAR PARK PLAZA-SM CITY NORTH Tel. No.: 920-9140 • 6/F SHANGRI-LA SHOPPING CENTER Tel. No.: 637-4414 • AIRPORT CITI MALL-NAIA ROAD, PARANAQUE Tel.: No.: 512-9708 • 4/F SM CITY MANILA Tel. No.: 400-5632 • 4/F SM CITY BACOOR, CAVITE Tel. Nos.: (046) 417-7761

TCA BRANCHES: EDSA SHANGRI - LA PLAZA Tel. No.: 637-4163 • SM SOUTHMALL Tel. No.: 800-0512 • SM MEGAMALL Tel. No.: 633-1594 • SM BACOOR Tel. No.: (046) 417-0840 • STA. LUCIA EAST Tel. No.: 681-7334 • FAIRVIEW Tel. No.: 418-7151 • FESTIVAL MALL FILINVEST Tel. No.: 850-3710 • VIRRAMALL Tel. No.: 721-0957 • QUAD PARK SQUARE 1 Tel. No.: 810-5090 • TUTUBAN Tel. No.: 253-1444

VCSI VillMan BRANCHES: Q.C. Tel. No.: 371-5611 • STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL Tel. No.: 646-6536 • SM MEGAMALL Tel. No.: 633-1724 • SM MANILA Tel. No.: 525-3218 • SM NORTH Tel. No.: 927-5831 • SM SOUTHMALL Tel No.: 806-9595 • SM BACOOR Tel. No.: (046) 502-0526 • SM CEBU Tel. No.: (032) 234-0219 • SM PAMPANGA Tel. No.: (045) 961-2225 • HARRISON PLAZA Tel. No.: 525-7731 • AYALA ALABANG Tel. No.: 807-8987 • QUAD PARK SQUARE I Tel. No.: 812-6734

SILICON VALLEY BRANCHES: 2/F 6797 AYALA AVE. cor. HERRERA ST., MAKATI Tel. No.: 892-2222 • G/F SUNVAR PLAZA - MAKATI Tel. No.: 843-4371 • PASEO DE ROXAS - MAKATI Tel. No.: 815-0570 • G/F PACIFIC CORPORATE BUILDING - WEST AVE., Q.C. Tel. No.: 373-9872 • VCSi BUILDING - PAG - ASA, Q.C. Tel. No.: 929-0411 • G/F METROLANE COMPLEX - CUBAO, Q.C. Tel. No.: 912-2785 • G/F KATIPUNAN 2000 BLDG. - KATIPUNAN, Q.C Tel. No.: 433-1224 • CABANATUAN - MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY Tel. No.: (044) 600-2000 • CABANATUAN-MEGA CENTER Tel. No.: (044) 600-0674

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 (9129011 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2002

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES

P230 per column centimeter
P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

BLDG HOUSE CONST. REPAIR RENOV ROOF PAINT 7408490

COSMETOLOGY

AROMATHERAPY
SPA BODY TREATMENT
WORKSHOP APRIL 20
8956031 L2011 OR 8971832

MASSAGE

'02 CAMPUS IDOL 8890170

2DMX BOYS 8348875

AKHIN THAI MASSAGE#0917 4116004 Mla & Cebu srvcs

★BONG 09164329065★

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883 ; 0916-4404374

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

PURELY MASSAGE 7516649

Sam Massage 09202402656

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 8312373 Romy

MASSAGE BY BEAUTY TOUCH
HOME & HOTEL SVC.
FOR MEN & WOMEN
853-9837 • 852-6372

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09183257044

FEELS GOOD
Reflexology Center
412-7758/413-4027

H-H-MS MALE 7314018

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

TUTORIAL LESSONS

Chinese Teacher Mandarin English Preferable Native Speaker #8003306

• LIGHT-5268216 OR 70 •

UPCAT REVIEW 936-2703

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAIDS PROV'L 4934583

BEST MAIDS 8533504•8533505

Direct Maid Yaya Boy 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

Maids Fr. Province 445-0513

MAIDS w/ NBI 4216053

MAIDS W/NBI 5349075

MAIDS•2594067•2590869

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•8735062•8712372

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 872-2792•873-5271

RELIABLE HONEST MAIDS W/ NBI 4213253

Yaya Maid Cook Laba 9133924

Yaya Maid Laba 8708799

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

JEN-ART TRUCKING 930-5202 454-4581

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

Lipat Bahay / Car Rental 6400317

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

4 UNIT 3STRY NR DLSU 8992148

Near Rockwell
LA115m² FA345m² 895-9336
0917-4743064 • Zeny

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.073M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-2429078

QUEZON CITY

T.Sora Brand New 3BR2TB Dona Faustina Tel 9310685

Xavierville 10.5M 0917-7918952

RIZAL

Antipolo Cottonwood Hgts Blk 2 Lot 2 Cor Lot 400m² 4BR 3TB F-Furnished Mds Qtr & Driver Qtr Call 531-3646

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

PROVINCIAL

Southville Binan LA-244 Big Frige Call (049)-8390706

Sta Rosa Village Sta Rosa, Laguna 152m² cor lot 43.20FA w/ Attic 26.20 Call Cha 8957658

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★ WESTGROVE HTS ★
An Ayala South Community
350-700m² at Lots P7800m² up
Pay 10% Balance 5 yrs
with Complete Facilities
9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

PROVINCIAL

FARM LOT 30,768sqm CA-PAS, TARLAC 500m from Municipality 50m McHway P800/sqm (neg.) URGENT!
Tels. 0916-4139874
0917-9077841

RUSH! Ideal 4 Resort Pilar Bataan 2,800m² (047) 237-2318 / 237-4054 Totoy

OTHER AREAS

1Ha P2700m² 2000m² P3500/m² 1m² Natl Hway Tanza Cavite Ellen T-3673915

Ciudad Real, SJDM BUL-292m² Call: Tel: 8903461 to 69 loc 34

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MANDALUYONG

41m² Stud Wack² Mand 8127760

PASIG

FA 127 2br 2tb 1 Parking Crisanta Twr Call 634-1212

PEARL PLAZA 3BR CHEAP!! w/Pkng 6427246/09174378409

QUEZON CITY

115sqm Panay Ave. 2BR 2TB 374-2572 • 0917-4032151

Cubao Condo P1.4M 10% DP 9126976 9132224 4381480

Rush!TandangSora · 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M 0917-5140997

SAN JUAN

SN JUAN 2BR 2.8M 6427246

MEMORIAL LOT

Himlayang Pilipino Family Estates 16 lots T-9125847

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

3BR 2TB W/GRGE 8992148

MANILA

13T 2BR 2TB UD T7436285 1209 CRISTOBAL SAMP NR UST

PARANAQUE

Nr. NAIA 2Units 2BR 2TB 9T-9.5T/mo neg T-8251751

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

MGV Pque 2sty 5BR4TB w/ phone CP09195546815 Didi

QUEZON CITY

2BR NR ATENEO 7T 6819727

3BR #7 Ruby St., Southville Tel 09193348517

PROVINCIAL

2BR bes PMA FF 9125847

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR w/prkg, a/c, ref, bed, living & dining sets P16T 897-8695

ANTEL,New 1BR,FF,w/AC & prkg, 30T, 896-0327 Grace

KWOOD Mkll 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

MANDALUYONG

1BR FF Paragon 9125047

PASIG

•EMERALD MANSION 3BR FF 50T Hi-Floor V.Nice 4121825

QUEZON CITY

2BR 1TB Prkg Nr Edsa SM North P8,450/mo. 0916-4833454

FOR LEASE

Prime Property
Quezon Ave. QC 50 to 840sqm Ideal for Rest./Entertainment Ctr. Infront of Jollibee & Nat'l. Bookstore across McDonald Call • Max • 374-2165 / 2167

BEDSPACE

5Male 5105011 0917-8499749

NR DLSU W/FOOD P6T 8992148

WANTED TO BUY

ATTN: PROPERTY OWNERS •For IMMEDIATE Occupancy• EXPATS looking for hses. In Forbes, Dasma, Urdaneta, and units in Rockwell, Essensa, Pacific Plaza Tower, 1 Roxas, etc. T-7594091 • 7500127 • 7592335

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

★RETIRO★ ★Prime Loc for Bank/Rest P60T 6714421

★TEKTITE SEVERAL UNITS★ P250-P300/m² 6714421

PRESTIGE TWR 97m²&150m² All Bnew 4121825 09177914366

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

ISUZU

ELF CANTER JAPAN 913-2224

MITSUBISHI

95 Lancer 180T 09189181109

'96 Pajero P680T 682-7168 to 69

98 Adventure A-1 8530469

MITSUBISHI

Safari Pajero Trooper A1 9126976 9132224 4381161

OPEL

2000 Opel Astra Sedan V. Good Cond. 6353105/3099

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Delica Besta Town-Lite Ace 9120647 09178342020

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Executive Aircraft Beechcraft Baron B55 Fax (02)850-9018 For Information

Genset/Tractors 4x4 Pison Eng Welder, Loader, GCutter &others 3610215/3672002

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BNEW VAN 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

Cars/Vans Cheap 8203894

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

JB CARS CHEAP RATE ALL KINDS OF CARS & VANS Tel#'s 536-2048 / 526-6288

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MARIAN 8955627
CARS CSTER VANS BRDAL

RENT A VAN 0917-8460067

SPECIAL-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, L300, REVO, Altis, Honda, Lynx, Exalta, Matic, Cars/Vans Pajero ABC-5368822/3039789

TOYCO Trans Coaster / Cars Vans Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

LABRADOR blk/yellow, M/F w/papers & shots, 929-6439

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
LICENSED BY THE GOVT.
721-3736 / 0918-7193342

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P33/36/38 A1 Qlty 8020566/8014494

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

BUY/SELL EDUCATION PLAN G. LOPEZ •7137284•

DEFECTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

RITZ
FURNITURE/Used Clothing
P.Books/Magz/Shoes/Bags
Utensils/Sewing Mach T.V.
REF; Stereo; Spkr; Piano; etc.
Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY
GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8390004
8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

Steinway 1984 Baby Grand Piano P1.5M Call Sara 0917-4932299

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Bookeeper Call 334-1646

Manicurist Call 882-3810

OFC ASST. COL. LEV 8530469

MALE/FEMALE

•9Ofc Staff 9259574 Zolla•

CARE GIVER T5280722

★Ofc Staff 9134470 Casandra★

★URGENT! OFC STAFF ★ START ASAP 9134470 Pia

Now Hiring
OPERATIONS MANAGER
for Direct S elling Service Center
HISalary+Performance Incentives
8546017 Mon-Sat 8am-4pm

URGENT NEED 18 OFC STAFF 4374639 START ASAP JELLY

WANTED TEACHERS!!!
ARE YOU QUALIFIED TO TEACH IN THE U.S.? FREE Assessment and Orientation @ 9 AM on Saturday April 13, 2002 Roofdeck Prestige Towers Emerald Ave., Ortigas Cntr For Inquiries call 6360512 From 9 AM - 6 PM and look for RITCHEL YAP

Wanted
Senior Law Student
for occassional work in expatriate household submit application to leasque@yahoo.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•Travel N Earn From Home•
earn-and-travel.com
8531008 (0917)8101851

HANDS ON BAKING LESSONS BREADS & CAKES # 9383639

I made P575,000 in March
I Need 55 Women to Train
•Ms. Tan 525-0234/28•

Infants Kids Wear 3738821

Internet Cafe & Billiard 4 Sale Mabini 0917-4032151

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. TRAINING, RAW MAT'LS. AVAIL. 2554643 2554644 2553584

LOST YOUR JOB? JOIN US EARN $400/WK MIN 5220778

Work Fr. Home w/ Travel 8376068

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR
AUTHORITY TO INSTALL A 40 MVA
SUBSTATION

ERC CASE NO. 2001-852

SAN FERNANDO ELECTRIC LIGHT AND
POWER COMPANY, INC. (SFELAPCO),
x--x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicant San Fernando Electric Light and Power Company, Inc. (SFELAPCO) on **August 2, 2001** of an application for authority to install a 40 MVA substation.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on **April 15, 2002** at nine o'clock (9:00 A.M.) in the morning at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they may be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **FE B. BARIN**, Chairman, and the Honorables **MARY ANNE B. COLAYCO, OLIVER B. BUTALID, CARLOS R. ALINDADA** and **LETICIA V. IBAY**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 8th day of March, 2002 at Pasig, City.

(Sgd.) **FRUTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD JR.**
Executive Director III

(PDI - April 9, 2002)

YOUR CONNECTION TO
BETTER PEOPLE,
BETTER JOBS.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE
visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

GIA
THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America
Learn about Gems and Jewelry
From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide
GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential
Thailand is a world center for gems and jewelry
For professional training at the source
GIA Thailand Campus
Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77
giathai@ksc15.th.com
Fax: (662) 236-9829
www.giathailand.com

2-DAY AUCTION SALE

Equipment formerly belonging to NEC Philippines (moved for convenience of sale)

HUGE QUANTITY OF TEST EQUIPMENT; LABORATORY EQUIPMENT; MICROSCOPES; PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT; LASER ENCODER MOTORS; SERVERS; COMPUTERS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; STAINLESS STEEL PRODUCTION TABLES; TROLLEYS; CHAIRS; LOCKERS; CANTEEN EQUIPMENT, etc.
PLUS A LARGE INVENTORY OF UNUSED CONSUMABLES

MOST EQUIPMENT 1998 - 2001

IN OVER 4,000 LOTS INCLUDING:-

TEST EQUIPMENT - TEKTRONIX (6) TDS 520A, TDS 11402A Digitalizing Oscilloscopes; (6) TEKTRONIX 2465B, IWATSU LEROY LC574AM Oscilloscopes; (2) IWATSU TS8500 Storage Scope, HP 1662ES Logic Analyzer; HP 8590A, ANRITSU MS2601B Spectrum Analyzers; RION KH02A Pulse Height Analyzers; HP 5384A Frequency Counter; HP 3324A Function Sweep Generator; SHIMADZU OPGU 2100S Hydrogen Generator, PLUS Asstd. AGILENT, SIMCO, TREK, SATO SIGMA, YOKOGAWA, HOIS, HAVAL, HARIBA, KETENCE, TOYO, NATIONAL, ANATEL, TECHNART - Contact the Auctioneers for further details
LABORATORY - DIONEX DX500, DX1-03100 Ion Chromatographs, SHIMADZU GC17A Gas Chromatograph w/ Mass Spectrometer; SHIMADZU GC-14B Gas Chromatograph; SHIMADZU MPS2000 Multi Purpose Recording Spectrophotometer; SHIMADZU AGS-H 5KN Bonding Force Measuring Machine; HIAC-ROYCO AB2 Liquid Particle Counter; KUBOTA 5400 Table Top Centrifuge; HITACHI E102 Ion Sputter; IASCO V-530 UV/VIS Spectrophotometer w/ Pump; IUCHI IC300 Incubator; PASOLINA IST-150 Autoclave, PLUS Asstd. Temperature Controllers; Ultrasonic Cleaners; Aspirators; Water Baths; Vacuum Pumps; Gas Analyzers; Digital/Beam Scales, Laboratory Glassware, etc.
MICROSCOPES - OLYMPUS S240 & SONY CCD Colour Video Camera w/ Video Printer & Monitor; (2) SONY TW-TL-15 Video Scopes; OLYMPUS S240 ESD w/ Power Supply; NIKON w/ HFX11 Polariod Black Film Metallurgical; A Large Qty. Of NIKON S2 Scopes w/ Stands; Asstd. Fiber Optic Lamp Systems; Transformers, etc.
LASER ENCODER MOTORS - (250+) CANON KP-1M (1999)
ULTRASONIC CLEANING - (2) CREST 8 Station Fully Automatic KERRY 5 Station, Fully Automatic
PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT - ORION KRX-1, (5) FUJI, (2) HIOS Vacuum Pumps; (3) HAKKO Soldering Controllers; ENDO Spring Balancers; Touch Panel Control Boxes; Acoustic Power Boxes; DENSEI Drive Controllers; SONY/COMMAX CCTV Monitors; KEYENCE Connectors; OMRON/COSEL Power Supplies; AIRNET/KANOMAX/KENWOOD Particle Counters; Asstd. SERVO Motors; Asstd. Pumps; Asstd. Transformers, etc.
FACTORY RACKING & FURNISHINGS - *Mezzanine* - Demountable Bolted Floor, 20.4m x 9.6m x 2.4m, (12) Bays Selective Racking w/ Cage, A Large Qty. Of Light Duty Boltless Selective Racking, (90+) Stainless Steel Floor Raises, (200+) Imported Stainless Steel Production Tables, (200+) Stainless Steel Mobile Racking Systems, A Large Qty. Of UCHIDA Personnel Lockers, Shoe Racks, (500+) Clean Room Production Chairs, IQ 310A Platform Scale, Asstd. (3/2) Fan Ionizers, Asstd. Storage Cabinets, etc.
FACTORY SECURITY - (3) GARRETT Magna Scanners 5500ml Maximum Tri-Precious Metal Walk Through Detectors
CONSUMABLES - Communication Cable, Clean Trays; Printer Rolls/Ribbons, Clean Room Gloves, Packaging Tape, Labels, Polyfilm, ESD Bags, Face Masks, Hairnets, etc.
INSPECTION EQUIPMENT - MITUTOYO Height Gauges, Leveling Jacks, Digital Dial Indicators, Asstd. Thread/Plug/Pin Gauges, Micometers, etc.
SERVERS - IBM Pentium III (2) RS6000 (3) RS5600; IBM Pentium II (2) 5540 Netfinity, (11) PC Server 330; (12) IBM Pentium PRO; (19) IBM RISCO System 6000; IBM 3570 Sub Tape System, etc.
PERSONAL COMPUTERS - Over 500 Asstd. Late Model High Cap. IBM, ACER, COMPAQ, NEC Personal Computers, (to 433mhz/9GB HDD) All w/ Keyboard Monitor & Mouse ***Monitors & Printers*** - Over 60 MITSUBISHI, IIVAMH, IMES, TFT LED Flat Screen, Over 50 TVS 10" SVGA, NEC Multi Sync 21 Pro 21" Printers - Asstd. NEC, CANON, HEWLETT PACKARD, EPSON Laser, Ink Jet, Dot Matrix Printers ***HDD Computer Cards & Accessories*** - IBM 9.6GB HDD; Over 10 IBM SCSI HDD; Asstd. SCSI Adaptor Cabls; BUFFALO 4.3GB Ext. HDD; ADAPTEC SCSI Cards - All Unused; Asstd. HP/ BAY NETWORKS/CISCO SYSTEMS Ethernet Hubs, etc.
BAR CODE READING & PRINTING - Over 400 PANASONIC/OENSAI Readers; Over 30 AUTONICS PC-12 WMV, BC-12m, BC-8 MKIII Printers; Asstd. EPSON Printers
CANTEEN - Complete Stainless Steel Serving Counter w/ Rail; DASEN Six/ Four Door Stainless Steel Ref/Freezers, HOSHIZAKI Ice Maker; Asstd. Food Stainless Steel Preparation Tables; Asstd. Shelf Units; Asstd. Washing Stations; Asstd One/Two/Three Ring Gas Burners; (100+) Monoblock Canteen Tables; (600+) Monoblock Stools; A Large Qty. Of Canteen Utensils/ Dinnerware, etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE - (80+) Two/Three Drawer Pedestal Units; OKAMURA/ UCHIDA Computer Tables; (60+) Three Drawer Steel Lateral Filing Cabinets; (100+) Fabric Upholstered Clerical/Guest/Executive Chairs; Asstd. Single/ Double Pedestal LAMEX Type Office Desks, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - PHILIPS 32" Colour Television; 3M Overhead Projectors; Asstd. Telephone Hand Sets; CONDURA/TOSHIBA/NATIONAL Refrigerators; Asstd. Bundy/Wall Clocks, etc.

AT: FILSYN COMPOUND, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA, PHILIPPINES
ON: FRIDAY, 19TH & SATURDAY, 20TH APRIL 2002- 10:30AM PROMPT
ON VIEW: WEDNESDAY, 17TH & THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2002, 9:00AM - 5:00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAY
(NOTE: Selected high value items will be bid on-line only closing 22nd April 2002. See catalogue for further details)
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php50,000.00 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jollliand Bldg., 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-882 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
U.P. Technology Park Complex, C.P. Garcia Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines
Email: info@asti.dost.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The **ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ASTI)** is inviting Dealers/Suppliers for the supply of the following:

1. **One (1) unit Quantum Snap Server 12000 (960GB capacity)**
2. **Twelve (12) units Aironet 340 Series Bridge**
3. **One (1) unit Sectoral Antenna**
4. **Six (6) units CISCO 2621**
5. **Three (3) units Uninterrupted Power Supply (1400 VA)**

Opening of bids for **item no. 1** will be on **April 22, 2002, 2:00 p.m.** and **items nos. 2 to 5 will be on April 23, 2002, 2:00 p.m.** at ASTI Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City. Bidding documents may be obtained from **ASTI** or call Millet D. Pedro at tel. no. **435-1050** for more details.

For items nos. 2 to 4, we require the bidders to have the following requirements:
a. Certificate of CISCO dealership
b. Dealer's permit from NTC

In case of failure of bidding due to insufficient number of participating and responsive bidders, **a re-bidding shall automatically be re-scheduled one week** after the announcement of a failure of bid.

(Sgd.) **JESUS C. MANIO**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - April 9, 2002)

In Loving Memory of

Paz Valisno Siojo

joined our Lord and her beloved parents **Bernardo** (†), and **Flora** (†), on April 5, 2002
at the age of 93 years, 11 months and 16 days
in Burnaby General Hospital, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

She is survived by her nephews and nieces from her deceased brothers and sisters:

Istanislawa Enriquez (†)
Danding, Porfirio, Nestor, Bobby, Sonny, Nene, Baby, Marian

Joaquin Siojo (†)
Pacing, Dolores, Arsenio, Angel (†), Naty, Carding, Felisa, Paquito

Rosario Catu (†)
Alfredo, Teresita, Mario, Pepito, Evelyn, Violeta, Victoria, Paquito (†), Pacita, Oscar, Ben

Francisco Siojo (†)
Romy, Manolo

Caridad Dela Fuente (†)
Chitong, Popeng, Nene, Narciso

Emilia Gutierrez (†)
Peping, Maning, Rene, Antonia, Anita, Nido, Efren

Domingo Siojo (†)
Totoy, Medy

Vicente Siojo (†)
Sollie

Interment will be on April 10, 2002 at the Gardens of Gethsemani, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.
We request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

"My soul finds rest to God alone; from Him comes my Salvation."
Psalm 62:2

OUR DEARLY BELOVED MOMSIE

Aida Castillo Herrera

January 15, 1919 - April 7, 2002

Now peacefilly rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 7th day of April 2002 at the age of 83.

Her loving husband **Ret. Major Hermito P. Herrera** (†); her loving children **Baby & Tony Paez, Malou & Jessie Villegas, Rey & Cely Herrera, Gerry & Lot Herrera, Roland & Dita Herrera**; grandchildren **Margs, John & Cocoy Paez, Jesselle Villegas, Myka, Issa, Angelica Herrera, Miguel & Gabriel Herrera, Renzo Herrera**; surviving brother **Engr. Carlos L. Castillo**; sister **Teresita L. Castillo**; sisters-in-law **Nieves, Titay**, and **Lilia Castillo, Maria, Nenita Herrera**; brother-in-law **Doroteo Herrera**; nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, April 11, 2002, after the 2:00 PM Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Tanauan, Batangas. Mass at 9:00 AM will also be offered at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels on the same day.

JOSEFINA A. OBUSAN

Died Peacefully at the age of 84 on April 6, 2002.

Her beloved children, relatives and dear friends, mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at No. 4 Chapel Road, Mia Housing Area, Pasay City (Tel. Nos. 831-0894 / 513-9100).

Interment is set tentatively on Thursday, April 11, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park.

To do your will is my delight; my God, your law is in my heart.
Psalm 40:9

Julia Jimenez Morales

(Moncada, Tarlac & Bayambang, Pangasinan)

Reunited with her Father in heaven on April 8, 2002 at the age of 88.

Our family, brothers, sisters, relatives and children request your prayers for Mamang.

Children:
Nancy Celia/Romy Valenzuela, Louie/Lilli Morales, Pricilla/Butch Lavado; Gloria "Queenie" Ramos

Grandchildren:
Rona, Raymond, Rashi, Roderick, Raquel, Bebs, Bambino
Michael, Chummy, Luis Anthony, Vanessa, Patrick
Katie
Ali, Lyle, Monica

Her body lies in state at Don Bosco (Makati) Faith Chapel up to Thursday, April 11 and will be transferred to Moncada, Tarlac on Friday, April 12, 2002.

Interment will be on April 13, Saturday after the Church services at 8:00 a.m. at the Moncada Municipal Cemetery.

April 1942: Bataan and Catas

Lt. Bienvenido Oira
Cpl. Juan Oira
Pvt. Manuel Oira

60 yrs. after your supreme sacrifice, we, your descendants born after you gave your lives for our country's sake, remember and honor you and your noble deed that set an example of true patriotism for us to emulate.

"There is nothing greater than dying for one's country."

Certainly, you are the pride of the family.

The Oira's of
Guinobatan, Albay

CARLITOS JIMENEZ LOPEZ

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on April 8, 2002 at the age of 76.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be announced later at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROSELINA C. WEINSTEIN

Peacefully joined her Creator
on April 8, 2002
at the age of 80.

Her daughter **Ma. Ruby W. Lavides**, husband **Jojo Lavides**; brother **Isagani de Castro**; nieces, nephews, and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Alvarez Funeral Homes in San Roque, Cavite City.

Funeral Mass followed by interment will be at Himlayan Caviteño at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 11, 2002.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalms 23:6

GAVINO CRUZ MENDIOLA

of
Sikatuna Village & Marikina City

Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 7th of April 2002 at the age of 86.

His bereaved family—wife **Mercedes** (†); children **Armando** (†), **Teresita (Ine), Mila & Rene Mababa, Lynn Cabanag, Boy & Aglot, Domingo** (†), **Malette & Mike Zee**; grandchilden, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and other relatives remember him with love and prayers, and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Imperial Chapel, Second Floor, Old Building at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

His body will be transferred to the Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy Church, Maamo corner Madasalin Streets, Sikatuna Village at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 11th and Funeral Mass will be offered at 1:00 PM.

Interment follows immediately at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

WTCMM to become big family home for Home & Garden 2002

FOR THREE days in September this year, the huge exhibition hall of the World Trade Center in Metro Manila (WTCMM) along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, will be transformed into one big family home, with a garden to boot, with every room adorned with the latest furnishings and furniture for modern living, and the garden alive with horticultural delights and the latest gardening tools and equipment.

During those three days from Sept. 19 to 21, Home & Garden Asia 2002 will be held. It is the first exhibition of its kind to be held in the Philippines to showcase the latest goods and products for the home and garden.

Organized by H&G International, a division of Leverage International (Consultants), Home & Garden Asia 2002 will be participated in by leading manufacturers, distributors, dealers and retailers of home appliances and furnishings and garden decors. Products to be displayed will come from the United States, Europe and Asian countries including the Philippines, Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Iran.

Home products to be displayed include airconditioners, component systems, computers, refrigerators and freezers, corded/cordless telephones, electric fans, flat irons, karaoke, microwave ovens, rice cookers, vacuum cleaners, toasters, washing machines and dryers.

Security systems and equipment, dining room, living room and bedroom furniture and furnishings, bathroom fixtures, floor coverings and carpets, home decors and housewares, lamp and lighting fixtures, and windows and window grills.

Also to be exhibited are do-it-yourself kits, draperies and curtain fixtures, household utensils, musical instruments, paints, pest control products, and remodeling and renovation products.

Garden items to be displayed will include cutflowers, equipment and materials on horticulture, garden décor and products, garden tools, landscaping equipment and supplies, swimming pool equipment and supplies, irrigation systems and equipment, ornamental greenery, and outdoor furniture.

Home & Garden 2002 is supported by the US Embassy Commercial Service, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association.

Those interested to join can call Elizabeth Cruz at 818-6821 and 813-2473, or Robert Sanchez at 813-2472 and 810-1389, or e-mail lvrge@netasia.net.

PLDT EMPLOYEES' SERV
ERATIV INC. (TEL

COCOLIFE, PLDT TELESCOOP MOA

Cocolife recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the PLDT Employees Cooperative Inc. (Telescoop). Employees of PLDT can now enjoy the benefits of the Employee Security Program Plus (ESP+), which provides insurance coverage and salary loans for members. The MOA signing took place at the executive dining room of the UCPB head office. Signing for Cocolife is lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr., president, and for PLDT Telescoop Francisco Caballero, chair, president, and CEO of PLDT Telescoop. Also present were Efren Yambot, first vice president of Cocolife, Virgilio Paringit, chair, audit inventory commitee, Ephraim Castro, administrative manager of PLDT Telescoop, Nikko DG Ledesma, head, marketing and franchising of MMD, lawyer Francis M. Nob, head, mass marketing department, Ador Sulit, servicing agent of the Cocolife-ROA branch.

SMART PHONES FOR DANCE PARTY

Two club enthusiasts who enjoyed the successful Chicane Live dance party got a bonus in the form of GSM cellphones from party sponsor Smart Communications Inc. The winners, Jon Canto and Cesca Litton, were chosen by Smart officials among the immense crowd of clubbers that included celebrities, models, and multimedia artists. The event, which was also presented by Axe Gravity and Close-Up in cooperation with MTV Philippines and Big Fish, Joey 92.3 and Casino Filipino Parañaque, brought out clubbing enthusiasts as well as neophytes. Shown is Ramon R. Isberto, Jr., Smart public affairs head awarding the Nokia 5510 Smart mobile package to Chicane guy of the night Jon Canto.

JOB HOPEFUL IN MEDEX

Nurse Asterio Cayabyab (left) answers interview questions from BMI Healthcare (London) representatives Phillip Pitt and Jan Hale during Medex, a nursing recruitment event organized by ADD International Services Inc. and Drake International in Hotel Intercontinental, Makati. Cayabyab is one of over 1,000 job applicants interviewed by representatives from 14 of the United Kingdom's noted hospitals and medical institutions. The three-day event is the first medical exposition of its kind to be staged in the country. ADD is the country's number one provider to the United Kingdom's National Health Service Trust, and was awarded with a special citation by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for developing the UK market for Filipino healthcare professionals. Medex is in cooperation with BPI, Cathay Pacific, FedEx, Filinvest Land Inc., Philam Life, PLDT Touch Card and Tour Spectrum Inc.

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cough

Q. Why do we cough?

A. Coughing helps to get rid of anything that touches or tickles the larynx (the back of your throat) or the trachea (the tube going down to your lungs). If any foreign matter gets down there, it naturally is a good idea to get rid of it. That's what a cough is supposed to do. In coughing you take in a small breath and quickly start to breathe out. There is a sudden opening of the end of the trachea and out comes a sudden blast of air. Since it is a reflex action, we cough whether we want to or not. When you have a cold, there may be a continued tickling or irritation of the larynx and coughing may be hard to stop.

For the Record. Surprising as it may seem, too much oxygen is actually poisonous. Doctors do sometimes give 100 percent oxygen in certain health emergencies, such as severe lung disease. However, that is nearly five times the normal concentration of oxygen in the air. Medical experts say that continuous breathing of 100 percent oxygen for an extended period of time can cause accumulation of fluid in the lungs, collapse of the air sacs, convulsions, and, in premature infants, even blindness. Much lower oxygen concentrations are used for prolonged treatment in hospitals to treat asthmatics, victims of heart attacks, and patients recovering from lung surgery.

Past Forward. This day in 1865: The American Civil War ended with the surrender of Confederate leader General Robert E. Lee to his Union counterpart, General Ulysses Grant, at the Appomatox House in Virginia. Seventy-seven years later, in 1942, another famous surrender as US General Edward King yielded Bataan to the Japanese Imperial Army.

WORD WATCH

Abulia (ay byoo lee uh) : loss of willpower.

PDI – April 9, 2002

A 'beauty contest' for Civics

HONDA CARS Philippines Inc., together with the Federation of Junior Marketing Association and NecVox Automobile Audio/Video System, presents the Civic Beauty Contest, a best in car show competition for Honda Civics. The Civic Beauty Contest is open to all bona fide or enrolled students of any college or university, and entries are limited to any 2001 Civic variant.

This unique beauty contest gives enthusiasts a chance to dress up and show off their youthful, sporty and stylish Civics. The display and awarding of participants will be on April 13 at the Pier One Bar and Grill at the Fort Square.

At stake in the Civic Beauty Contest are trips for two to Hong Kong and Boracay, and other great prizes. Special awards will also be given for best in paint, best in engine display, and people's choice. The car must be registered under the name of the student and/or any immediate family member or up to a first-degree relative.

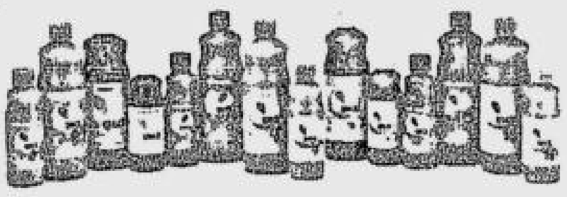
At the same time, all Honda dealerships nationwide will be displaying their own dressed up Civics at their respective showrooms for the professional category of the Civic Beauty Contest.

Interested students may inquire at their respective Junior Marketing Association offices, or through the HCPI customer relations group. MBA, Law and Medicine students are disqualified from joining. For more information, call Abbie or Lee of the HCPI customer relations group at 893-9618, fax 812-6452, cell 0917-5008265, or e-mail customer_relations@hondaphil.com.

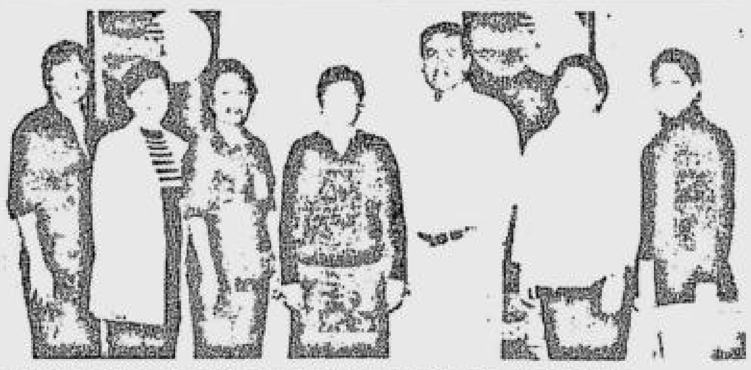
The civic Beauty Contest is also held in cooperation with Air Philippines, Subic Legenda Hotel, Lucky Strike, 97.1 WLS FM, Joey 92.3, 93.9 KC FM, and 96.3 WROCK.

Product FILES

The A-C-E is in Sunquick

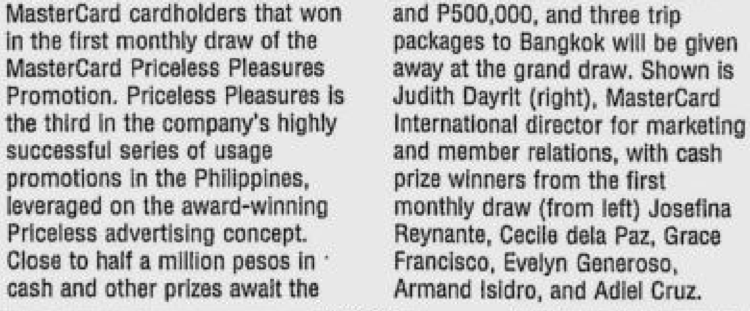


SUNQUICK is giving you more reasons to keep your kids healthy. Aside from its delightful fruity taste that your kids have come to love, Sunquick juice concentrate is also enriched with the A-C-E to good health—vitamins A, C, and E. Vitamin A is for good eyesight, C promotes a strong immune system, and E is for healthy skin. Let your kids drink to good health. Give them a glass of Sunquick everyday. Sunquick is available (from left) in Tropical Fruit, Lemon Iced Tea, Mandarin, Orange, Lemon, Red Orange, and Peach Orange flavors.



FIRST WINNERS IN MASTERCARD PROMO

MasterCard International has awarded almost P250,000 in cash and other prizes to 33 lucky MasterCard cardholders that won in the first monthly draw of the MasterCard Priceless Pleasures Promotion. Priceless Pleasures is the third in the company's highly successful series of usage promotions in the Philippines, leveraged on the award-winning Priceless advertising concept. Close to half a million pesos in cash and other prizes await the lucky winners in the succeeding second and third monthly draws. The top cash prizes of P1 million and P500,000, and three trip packages to Bangkok will be given away at the grand draw. Shown is Judith Dayrit (right), MasterCard International director for marketing and member relations, with cash prize winners from the first monthly draw (from left) Josefina Reynante, Cecile dela Paz, Grace Francisco, Evelyn Generoso, Armand Isidro, and Adiel Cruz.

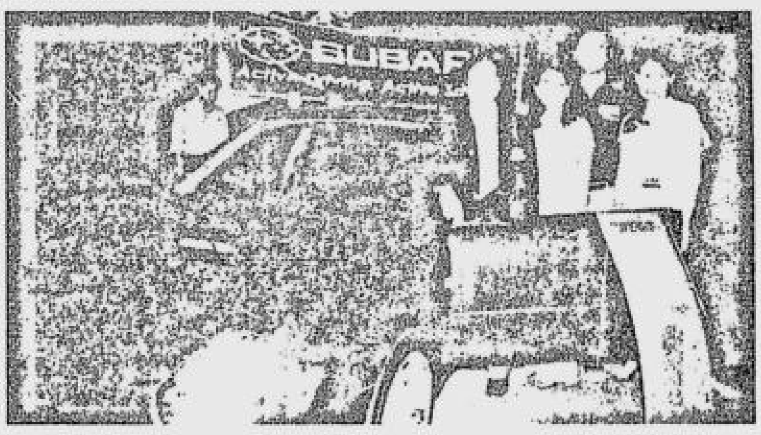

YERS. TOWARDS A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

MANILA Y HONORARY PRESIDENT

Evelina Atienza, wife of Mayor Lito Atienza (fifth from left) was installed the honorary president of the YMCA of Manila by Manila Y president Dr. Cindy Dollente Ang (fourth from left) during the annual general membership meeting of the YMCA recently. Also shown (from left) are director Felisa S. Florendo; Felisa S. Sy, second VP; Gov. Baby P. Ortiz, PRO; Amalia R. Gomez, board member, and Vilma D. Umengan, national president of YMCA. This year's theme is "Y'ers': Towards a Culture of Excellence.'

DHL GOES ERIC

DHL Worldwide Express (Philippines), the world's leading international air express network, has chosen Eric, or Enterprise Resource Information and Control System to boost its efficiency in handling human resources and payroll functions. 'We found Eric to be of the right level of functionality for DHL,' says John Steuart, national financial controller of DHL. Local software firm Jupiter Systems, a member of iVantage Group, is the maker and implementor of Eric. Due to the close cooperation between DHL and Jupiter Systems, the payroll module was implemented in three weeks from the usual two months. The human resources and time card modules are expected to go online soon to fully serve DHL's new country office. Shown are (from left) DHL national human resources manager Derek Tham, Steuart, JSI president Fermin Taruc, Eric applications consultant Sonia Buenaflor, and JSI VP for consulting services Noel Bernardo.



SUBARU IMPREZA WRX IN RP

General Motors Automobiles Philippines (GMPh) recently launched the Subaru Impreza WRX, a descendant of World Rally Championship cars. The perfect combination of the all-wheel-drive system and the horizontally opposed engine, which are also present in all Subaru vehicles, gives the Subaru Impreza WRX driving stability and excellent road traction in all types of terrain. The Subaru Impreza WRX was unveiled by (from left) Eiichi Matsumoto, general manager for Asia Pacific and Latin America of Subaru overseas division and Harold Koh, president and general manager of GMPh. Interested buyers can place their orders in any GM AutoWorld dealer in Makati (843-0217 to 20), Quezon Avenue (374-1250 to 59), Cebu (32-2340426), Pampanga (45-9630888) and at Shaw (535-4938).

BITS & Clips

For breast cancer survivors

THE CUA Bang Foundation, in its commitment to helping Filipino women living with breast cancer, is currently offering limited anti-breast cancer drugs at special rates. Tamoxifen 20 mg is offered at P25 per tablet (compared to P62 per tablet at drugstores). Arimidex 1 mg is offered at P320 per tablet (compared to P490 per tablet at leading hospitals). For inquiries, call Hershey or Raciel at 810-0330 from Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CMAP confab in Baguio

THE CIRCULATION Managers Association of the Philippines (CMAP) will sponsor three major projects: a reading awareness campaign, a leadership training seminar and the dealers' regional conference to be held at Session Road, Burnham Park and Mountain Lodge in Baguio City on April 10, 11 and 12, respectively. The highlight of the events is the regional conference which starts at 8 a.m. About 80 guests and delegates from Northern Luzon regions will participate. CMAP president Bienvenido Baltazar, circulation manager of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, CMAP project directors, and CMAP member publications invites all newsdealers-delegates, Prado-CMGroup, NMCDAP and co-sponsors, to attend this annual CMAP activity. For inquiries, call Cristy at 931-0103, 0917-4462888 and Raul Perez at 0916-5416720.

'Scentses' candle, herb exhibit

PHILTRADE Exhibits, in cooperation with Bayview Park Hotel, is hosting "Scentses", a Candles, Scents, and Herbs Exhibit over an afternoon tea called "Mystique Merienda" at the hotel's lobby from April 10 to 16. The exhibit features unique designs and styles of candles for decorative and functional purposes, and soothing aromatherapy. Activities during the exhibit include fortune telling, tattoo demonstration, herbal beauty application, massage oil-making and candle-making demonstration. Exhibit opens from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is open to the public. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 820-7879, or 820-1570.

Aurora: A potential investment haven

By Raffy Castillo
Contributor

REP. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo NOEL CAPARROS

ALTHOUGH at present considered as one of the depressed provinces in the country, the province of Aurora carries a lot of potential that may just turn it to be another Palawan, Cebu or Subic.

House Bill 1234 titled "Aurora Export Special Economic Zone and Free Port," authored by Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo (Lone District, Aurora) is currently being deliberated in Congress. This aims to expedite the development of the area and attract the steady flow of investments both from Philippine and international enterprises.

Massive project

Another great opportunity for investors is the Pacific Coast City Ecozone, a massive project to develop a new coastal city in the provinces of Aurora and Quezon. The development plan involves the construction of an airport, seaport, new roads, resorts and residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The Special Economic Zone and Tourism Estate was created in January 2000 through Proclamation 233, pursuant to the Special Economic Zones Act of 1995. The proclamation has designated certain areas located in Barangay Umiray, Dingalan, Aurora Province and in Barangay Umiray, Gen. Nakar, Quezon Province to collectively make up the new "Pacific Coast City Ecozone." The ecozone masterplan involves the development of some 30,000 hectares.

According to Rep. Angara-Castillo, the ecozone will be developed within the framework of the Constitution and the Local Government Code into a modern progressive agro-industrial, commercial, financial, investment and tourist center. The masterplan aims to make it decentralized, self-reliant and self-sustaining.

"Residential areas will be integrated into the plan. It can also be an ideal retirement haven with a relaxed rustic ambience amid cosmopolitan amenities," Rep. Angara-Castillo said.

Transportation, telecommunications and other facilities needed to attract legitimate and productive foreign investments will be provided. The ecozone planners also aim to generate linkage industries and employment opportunities for the people of the province and neighboring towns and cities.

The ecozone will be managed and operated as a separate customs territory to facilitate the free flow, entry and movement of goods. Foreign citizens and companies owned by non-Filipinos in whatever proportion may set up enterprises in the ecozone either by themselves or in joint venture with Filipinos in any sector of industry, international trade and commerce.

5 phases of dev't

The Pacific Coastal City Ecozone plan designates five distinct phases of development through the year 2020. At each successive stage, major infrastructure investments in transportation and utility systems will create new real estate development opportunities.

The early phases will create predominantly resort and second home sites, together with potential government, corporate and academic location opportunities. Later phases will provide a greater variety of development opportunities, including institutional, industrial and commercial land to support the growing resident population.

Phase I involves the development of independent growth centers opened up in sequence, or simultaneously, based on improved coastal road access and a new commuter airport. Other development opportunities include marinas, resorts, residential areas and universities.

Infrastructure opportunities include a coastal access toll road to Infanta commuter airport, flood control, utility systems such as power generation and distribution, telecommunications, water systems, sewage collection and treatment.

Phase 2 entails the expansion of water-oriented resort uses together with growth of support services for year-round residents. Additional development opportunities will be provided and infrastructure opportunities involve utility system expansion and port facilities at Dingalan.

In Phase 3 of the masterplan, the city begins to mature as the nature of development diversifies from its earlier resort-oriented origins. In Phase 4, completion of a road link from Manila through the Sierra Madre mountains provides impetus for expanded growth along the Umiray River Corridor. Infrastructure opportunities include an access toll road to Metro Manila and utility system expansion.

Phase 5 envisions the completion of a rail link from Manila to Dingalan Port through the site, together with a new regional airport. This will provide the final links in the regional transportation system. Infrastructure opportunities include a commuter and cargo rail link to Metro Manila, regional airport expansion and utility system expansion.

Roads

Distance from Manila to Baler, capital town of Aurora, is 230 kilometers and travel time under present circumstances is seven hours on the average including pit stops and snacks. Baler to Casiguran is another 125 kilometers with rougher and steeper roads. Usual travel time is four hours.

The roads to Aurora are still generally unpaved but through the joint efforts of Sen. Edgardo Angara and Rep. Angara-Castillo, and the support of the national government, paving of the Baler-Bongabon Road will hopefully be completed in the next few years. This should cut travel time by almost two hours.

Rep. Angara-Castillo has also spearheaded the construction of numerous farm-to-market roads and development of various ecotourism projects during her current term and the previous two terms.

Aurora is traversed by a total road network of 1,507.7 km. According to the Aurora webpage, most of these roads (89.7 percent) are gravel-surfaced. Earth- surfaced roads comprise almost 6 percent, while 3.4 percent are asphalted. Only 0.1 percent of roads are concrete.

During the rainy and monsoon season, the gravel and earth roads are very difficult to traverse. Some of these unsurfaced road sections cover mountainous terrain. These sections are prone to landslides, especially during the rainy season. Rep. Angara-Castillo is optimistic that should the ecozone development plan push through, all these travails in traveling to Aurora will be a thing of the past and the province will prove to be an attractive investment haven for both local and foreign investors.

Realtors board celebrates 43rd anniversary

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. takes on a positive outlook on the real estate industry for its 43rd anniversary celebration, which has for its theme "Let the Good Times Roll!"

All PMRB realtors will be in their era of the '70s attire for their April 12 ago-go party, which will be held at the Phoenix Room, Bel-Air Clubhouse, Hydra corner Solar Street, Bel-Air, Makati City. The affair starts at 7 p.m. with the '70s disco music all night long.

The PMRB is headed by president Yvette C. Poe. Other officers are Gilberto R. Yupangco, vice president; Wilfredo C. Manzon, board secretary; Lucia O. Sebastian, treasurer; Mercy S. Reyes, assistant treasurer; Ma. Milagros R. Villena, PRO; Nicolas P. Gonzales Jr., internal auditor. Members of the board of directors are Diogenes A. Barredo, Rosauro M. Fernando, Susan O. Gay, Carmencita Gaerlan, Benjamin N. Jacinto and Malaya A. Laraya.

Presidential adviser is Domingo D. de Vera. Board consultants are Emmanuel H. Bocaling, Phil M. Coquia, Ma. Lilia I. Tancuan, Lucille J. Cuasay and Myrna A. Tort. Lawyer Ariel T. Martinez is the legal adviser.

Local architects laud new terminal facilities

A DELEGATION from the Philippine Institute of Architecture recently had a walk-in tour of the soon-to-open International Passenger Terminal 3 and was impressed by its facilities.

The country's top architects lauded the massive structure that created a focal point giving way to its soaring space (182,000 sq. m), saying the new airport will address the problem of "first impression" that travelers associate with upon their arrival in the country.

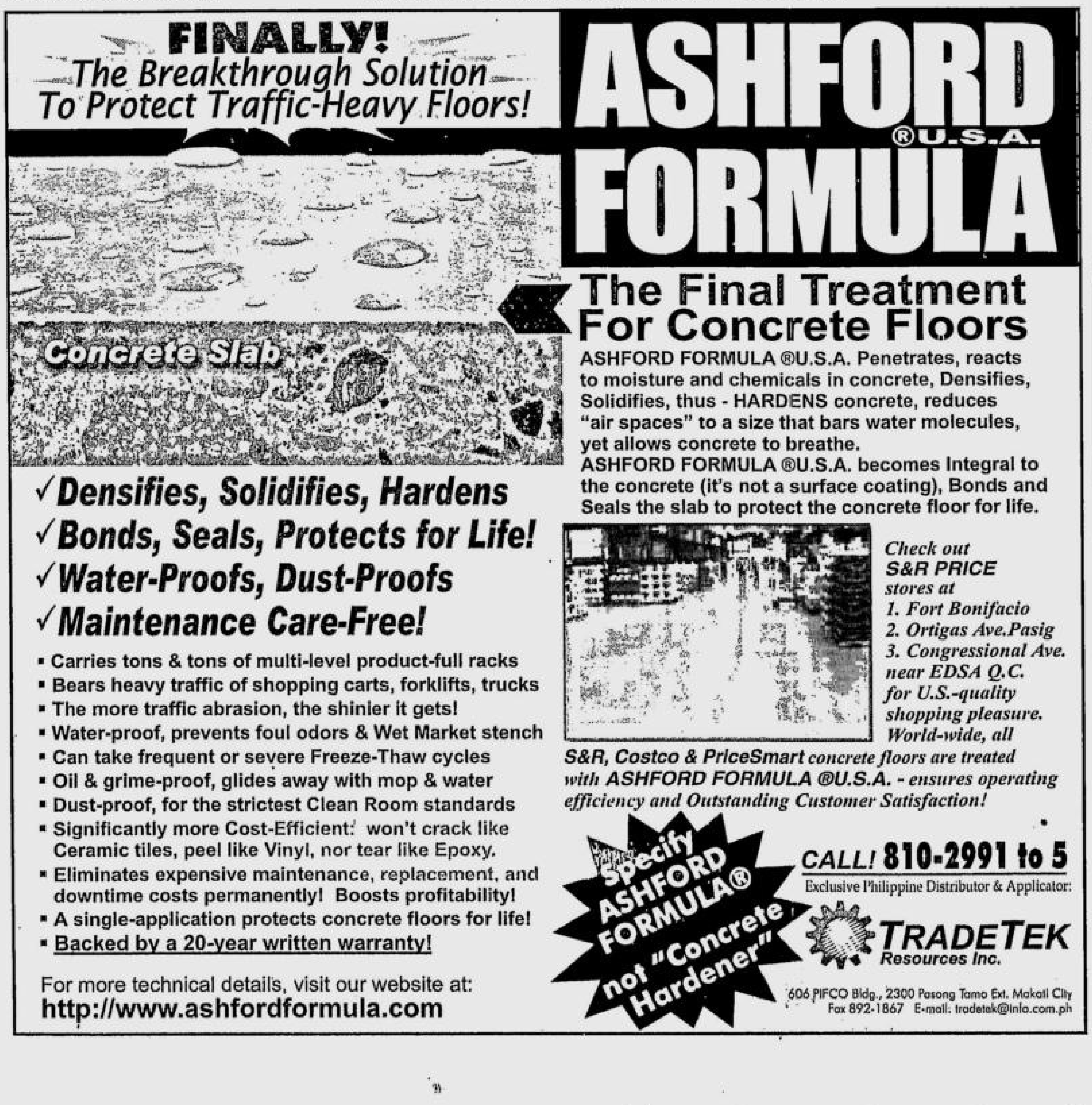
The delegation also noted the architectural design's distinctive expression between state-of-the-art technology and the diverse Filipino culture—reflecting the country's advancement and modernization.

Said Manuel Noche, professor of Architecture and department chair for designs, College of Architecture, UST: "This airport is long overdue. So far the wait has been worth it. What I find very impressive is the departure area. It will finally address the problem of inherent Filipino culture of receiving and sending off their friends and loved ones."

IPT 3 will have a design capacity of 13 million passengers a year, 33,000 peak day capacity, 34 air-bridges, 9 moving walkways, 29 elevators, 314 display monitors, 118 immigration counters, 140 check-in counters, 8 departure baggage carousels, 7 arrival carousels, 20 X-ray screening machines and 20 walkthrough detectors. Another unique aspect of the terminal is the presence of an ecumenical chapel.

The new terminal was designed by world-renowned American architecture firm Skidmore Owings and Merill and constructed under the supervision of Japan's Takenaka Corp. It is currently leading a team of architects and engineers in the design effort for the new international complex at the former Villamor Air Base.

The Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) heads the consortium of Philippine companies in construction of the new terminal estimated at US$500 million. It controls 60 percent of the project. Flughafen/Main AG (Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide) has a 30 percent stake in the new terminal while Nissho Iwai of Japan holds the remaining 10 percent. IPT 3 is the biggest project for the German company outside of Germany and is the single largest infrastructure venture in Southeast Asia.



FINALLY!
The Breakthrough Solution
To Protect Traffic-Heavy Floors!

ASHFORD ®U.S.A. FORMULA

Concrete Slab

The Final Treatment For Concrete Floors

ASHFORD FORMULA ®U.S.A. Penetrates, reacts to moisture and chemicals in concrete, Densifies, Solidifies, thus - HARDENS concrete, reduces "air spaces" to a size that bars water molecules, yet allows concrete to breathe.
ASHFORD FORMULA ®U.S.A. becomes Integral to the concrete (it's not a surface coating), Bonds and Seals the slab to protect the concrete floor for life.

✓Densifies, Solidifies, Hardens
✓Bonds, Seals, Protects for Life!
✓Water-Proofs, Dust-Proofs
✓Maintenance Care-Free!

- Carries tons & tons of multi-level product-full racks
- Bears heavy traffic of shopping carts, forklifts, trucks
- The more traffic abrasion, the shinier it gets!
- Water-proof, prevents foul odors & Wet Market stench
- Can take frequent or severe Freeze-Thaw cycles
- Oil & grime-proof, glides away with mop & water
- Dust-proof, for the strictest Clean Room standards
- Significantly more Cost-Efficient: won't crack like Ceramic tiles, peel like Vinyl, nor tear like Epoxy.
- Eliminates expensive maintenance, replacement, and downtime costs permanently! Boosts profitability!
- A single-application protects concrete floors for life!
- Backed by a 20-year written warranty!

For more technical details, visit our website at:
http://www.ashfordformula.com

Check out S&R PRICE stores at
1. Fort Bonifacio
2. Ortigas Ave.Pasig
3. Congressional Ave. near EDSA Q.C.
for U.S.-quality shopping pleasure. World-wide, all S&R, Costco & PriceSmart concrete floors are treated with ASHFORD FORMULA ®U.S.A. - ensures operating efficiency and Outstanding Customer Satisfaction!

Specify ASHFORD FORMULA® not "Concrete Hardener"

CALL! 810-2991 to 5
Exclusive Philippine Distributor & Applicator:
TRADETEK Resources Inc.
606 PIFCO Bldg., 2300 Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City
Fax 892-1867 E-mail: tradetek@info.com.ph

TERMITES CAN LEAVE YOU HOMELESS

Destruction due to termite attack may not be as sudden or violent as damage from fire, but it is much more likely to occur. Since the Philippines is a terrific breeding and feeding ground for subterranean (underground) termites, one could say that there are only two kinds of homes here: those that have termites and those that will.

Termites work 24 hours a day and feast on wood and any cellulosic material like paper or even fabric. So anything from picture frames, radio speakers, books, textiles to hardwood flooring, window jambs and ceilings can become fodder for termites. Even if you live in a medium-rise condo, you are not far above and out of harm's way because termites are not afraid of heights - they can scale the concrete building and creep through cracks and openings in the structure. For home-/property owners, this means hundreds of thousands worth of structural repairs, priceless, irreplaceable properties turned to powder, and many sleepless nights.

Now total termite colony elimination is possible in the Philippines. US-based Dow AgroSciences developed Sentricon System, a breakthrough technology that has been taking the pest control industry by storm. Sentricon wipes out entire colonies by taking advantage of natural termite behavior and getting them where they live. It acts like an early warning device and a treatment method, and works in three steps: First, pest control professionals will place monitoring stations in the soil around the sites, checking these regularly for signs of termite activity. Second, as soon as termites begin feeding in the station, Sentricon technicians will replace the monitoring unit with a Baitube device that contains termite bait (the substance prevents them from molting, so that they are unable to grow, causing them do die). The termites will unsuspectingly summon their nest mates to the site by leaving special scent trails that lead to the bait. Finally, once the colony is eliminated, the bait will be replaced with new monitoring devices, which the technician will inspect closely and regularly for renewed termite activity.

Hexaflumuron, the bait material in Sentricon, is the first pest control product in the US to receive "fast track" registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new "Reduced Pesticide Risk" category. Sentricon was also awarded by the Clinton administration the US Presidential Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe. The technology is effective, odorless, absolutely non-disruptive, environmentally friendly and safe which makes it ideal for homes and hospitals, drugstores and food establishments, schools and libraries, museums and warehouses, clubhouses and high-rise buildings.

Termites can literally gobble up your house and leave you homeless. Call (32) 867-9797 or visit the website at www.sentricon.com and find out why Sentricon is being used to protect the White House, the US Statue of Liberty, some Philippine historical sites, and millions of homes and properties across America, Europe and Asia.

PAID ADVT.

REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

All Juan wants for shelter is decent, low-cost house

By Tessa R. Salazar

God bless our Home

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WHEN ordinary Filipinos are asked to visualize their dream house, they do so on Spartan, and not along Utopian lines. Ask a Filipino what his dream house is and he will never describe you the mothballed Boracay mansion.

Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Michael Defensor, during a visit to the World Building exposition in mid-March, stressed this observation before construction experts and foreign investors who attended the exposition.

Simple dream

Said Defensor: "Our people do not hanker for a three-car garage house. For them, a place to put the doormat down would be enough. They do not clamor for jacuzzis, that running water would be fine for them. They do not dream of a den. A sala that can double as a video parlor in the evening and a bedroom at night would be perfect. He was quick to add, however, that the simple dream doesn't mean that these people should be provided "fragile" and "rickety matchboxes."

He stressed that function, economy and esthetics can be fused even in a low-cost house. "What I have described are simple specs for a simple house. If we cannot help the ordinary Pinoy own one, then we stand indicted before the bar of history for being so utterly helpless in making them realize a simple wish."

Accessible loans

Meanwhile, Sen. Francis Pangilinan stressed that loans must not only be accessible, but must be affordable through "nonmarket-based interest rates that would be realized through suitable subsidies." He added how these must also have rational as well as creative payment schemes, conscious of market-based realities.

Said Pangilinan: "For a typical Filipino family, the home will be the biggest investment of their lives. For the fortunate few who have houses of their own, an abode offers a safe haven, a home and a source of pride. For the majority that remain without decent housing, a home remains an elusive dream and the continuous deprivation of roofs over their heads fuels disillusionment, hopelessness and anger."

Pangilinan described how his newly married parents in 1956 took out a loan to purchase their first home, which was a small two-bedroom bungalow in Philamlife Homes, Quezon City. He related how the monthly payments were spread out over a 20-year period at P156 a month.

A good deal?

"You might think, what a good deal. Those were the days. But P156 a month was a lot of money for a struggling engineer-builder and his public school teacher wife," he quipped. Pangilinan went on to say that his mother earned P100 a month and she took the bus daily to Padre Faura where she taught at the UP Preparatory High School. After just five years and four children, his parents could no longer afford the monthly payments. Pangilinan said that before he was born, they had to give up their home, take whatever money they could get from it, and move to the then more affordable cogon areas of UP Village where he was born.

"If the payment scheme on my parents' first house had considered the likelihood of a progressive increase in income and had instead started out with smaller payments up front and then, progressively larger payments with the passage of time, increasing in step with projected business and career growth, I am sure my folks would have been able to keep that first home," he said.

Residential condo sector recovery seen after 2002

By Raul C. Dancel

STILL weighed down by a supply glut from its boom years, the residential condominium sector is not expected to recover until after next year.

"Vacancy in the residential condominium sector continues to increase, as the supply situation remains a concern. While there are attractive pockets of opportunity, property professionals generally agree that the market will not begin to return until after 2002," property consultant FPDSavills Philippines Inc. said in a recent report.

Excesses

FPDSavills said the property sector had yet to make up for its excesses following the 1995-1998 boom, a period "when the market would snap up units as fast as property developers could print their preselling brochures."

During that period, projects became increasingly ambitious. Major developers started with small studio or one-bedroom units that upper middle-class wage earners could afford and eventually moved to building the country's first $1-million luxury apartments.

When the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis struck, everything fell apart. The suddenness of the financial crisis left numerous developers unprepared. Suddenly, developers were stuck with condominium units that nobody wanted.

Vacancies

FPDSavills said vacancies would continue to be a problem for developers of residential condominiums, especially with their tendency to build more despite weak demand.

"The supply situation will be further accentuated by the completion of other residential projects situated in existing and emerging urban developments in the metropolis, as investors continue to wait for prices to fall further and expect to pay record lows," it said.

Still falling

With too much supply in the market, rents are forecast to go down by 10 to 15 percent, especially those outside the luxury segment.

FPDSavills expects rents to continue falling, bottoming out only in the latter part of 2003.

It expects rents in Makati to stay at P260 per square meter, while those in Ortigas are seen fetching about P210 per square meter.

Flexible terms

According to FPDSavills: "Given current trends, we expect to continue flight to newer developments as rental levels of new developments come close to levels in existing stock. To retain and attract tenants, landlords have shown increased flexibility in lease terms and conditions. Downward pressure on rents will ease either when the rental stock decreases, as investors and landlords start to sell or as demand increases. In reference to these, it seems unlikely that rents will rise in the very near future."

FPDSavills is the trading name for the principal property services subsidiaries of Savills plc, a UK company with a full listing on the London Stock Exchange. Founded in 1855, the business is one of the leading firms of international property consultants and real estate agents in the world.

Defensor to lead Youth Build construction in Muntinlupa

By Charles E. Buban

HOUSING Secretary Michael Defensor will lead some 15,000 youth volunteers in launching Youth Build 2002 all over the country. On April 15 he will be in Muntinlupa City, one of the 23 sites nationwide where houses will be built under the Habitat for Humanity project.

Says Defensor: "This is the culmination of a nationwide youth mobilization that started early this year. What's more exciting is that we are doing this for three years now wherein youths from all sectors actively involve themselves in eliminating poverty housing in the country."

Poverty housing refers to substandard or poorly built shelter units that many Filipinos are forced to avail in order to meet their housing requirements. Among the developing countries, the Philippines has one of the highest housing requirements—around 3.6 million units from 2001 to 2004.

Defensor will be joined by his fellow Spice Boys, presidential daughter Luli Arroyo, and Executive Secretary Ben Romulo, Penshoppe Youth Council and MTV Asia.

250 houses

With this year's theme "Today's Builders... Tomorrow's Leaders," Youth Build 2002 is expected to build around 250 houses between April and June. These houses will be built at 23 sites located across the country.

Says Margie Moran-Floirendo, Youth Build 2002 steering committee chair: "We would like to instill in our youth the values of giving and sharing with the less privileged. We want our youth to learn about the importance of social responsibility. What we are creating here are future leaders. Their volunteering spirit would further deepen their involvement not only in fund raising but in mobilizing other individuals to join them in this worthwhile endeavor."

Joining her in the committee are Defensor, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, businessmen Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Don Pedro Roxas. This year's major sponsors include Caltex, Aegon, JPC Group of Companies, Ayala Group of Companies and Petron Foundation. Bernie Liu of Penshoppe and Oxygen brands of apparel has created the Penshoppe Youth Council that tied up with MTV-Asia to cover the event on selected sites.

Continuing affair

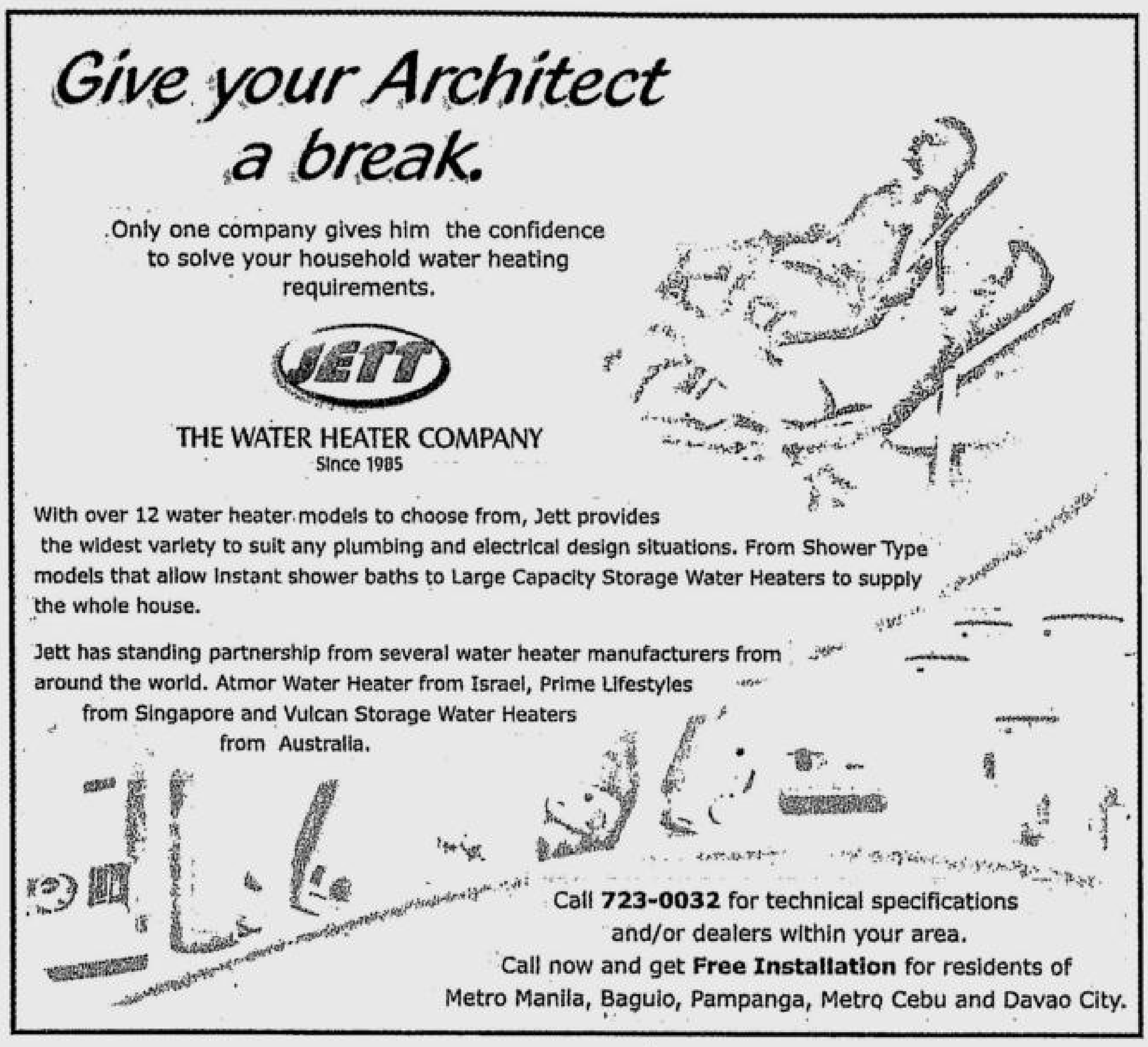
Youth Build is another project of Habitat for Humanities Philippines wherein a younger set of volunteers is tapped. First instituted three years ago, Youth Build has paved the way for youth core groups that are tasked to organize fund-raising and volunteering activities with Habitat affiliates. These groups composed of youths from different sectors were institutionalized and were recognized as a vital arm of Habitat Philippines.

The first Youth Build happened in year 2000, and has since been able to mobilize more than 20,000 youth volunteers who have built more than 500 houses across the country.

The success of Youth Build Philippines became an inspiration to Habitat International. Starting this year the event will also be replicated in 10 other Asian countries—Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Korea, East Timor, Vietnam, Japan, Mongolia and Indonesia.

In addition, Global Village teams of more than 100 youths will be crossing borders during the Youth Build period.

ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION
The Meralco's Manuel M. Lopez Development Center, a state-of-the-art training and development center in Antipolo City, has been officially certified to the 2000 version of the ISO 9001 standard recently. Designed by centennial architect Philip H. Recto, the MMLDC is a cluster of five modern pristine-white buildings in a 10-hectare natural setting, with lush landscapings, full-grown fruit trees, footpaths, creeks, bridges and ponds. It is now the preferred venue of top corporations and blue chip companies for their human resource development courses.



Give your Architect a break.

Only one company gives him the confidence to solve your household water heating requirements.

JETT
THE WATER HEATER COMPANY
Since 1985

With over 12 water heater models to choose from, Jett provides the widest variety to suit any plumbing and electrical design situations. From Shower Type models that allow instant shower baths to Large Capacity Storage Water Heaters to supply the whole house.

Jett has standing partnership from several water heater manufacturers from around the world. Atmor Water Heater from Israel, Prime Lifestyles from Singapore and Vulcan Storage Water Heaters from Australia.

Call **723-0032** for technical specifications and/or dealers within your area.
Call now and get **Free Installation** for residents of Metro Manila, Baguio, Pampanga, Metro Cebu and Davao City.

Creba sets taxation seminar

TAXATION on real property transactions and holdings will be the theme of a four-hour seminar-workshop to be conducted on Thursday at the Asian Institute of Management in Legaspi Village, Makati.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations Inc. (Creba), the seminar-workshop is accredited under the Continuing Education Program required by the Bureau of Trade Regulations for Consumer Protection of the Department of Trade and Industry for licensed real estate service practitioners.

Topics will include income tax on corporation versus joint venture on unregistered partnership, ordinary asset versus capital asset, property dividend, merger or consolidation, installment sales, sale of principle residence; withholding tax, transfer taxes, value-added tax, documentary stamp tax and local taxes.

Presentor will be lawyer Victorino C. Mamalateo, senior tax consultant, Punongbayan and Araullo, and former assistant commissioner, Assessment and Special Operations Service of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The seminar-workshop is part of a series of preconvention events ushering in the Creba-HUDCC national convention in Baguio City on Oct. 24-26.

CAMBRIDGE TOWN SHOWROOMS
Housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. recently opened two showrooms—one on the fifth floor of SM Megamall and another on the third floor of SM North Edsa—for its latest Cambridge Town residential township project in the Pasig-Cainta area. The showrooms also serve as sales offices and feature model units and scale models of the entire 7.4-hectare project. At the heart of the project is an efficiently planned and affordably priced two-level, two-bedroom condominium home.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Mapulang butlig sa mukha?
Mukhang pimple 'yan!
Huwag nang patagalin,
ang unang gawin, mag-
DERMALIN
Benzoic Acid, Clioquinol, Sulfur, Salicylic Acid Menthol, Cetyl Alcohol
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor

PERFORMANCE and post-game shoes from AND 1

JAPAN'S No. 1 golf line at Bridgestone Golf

A podium for those who want to be fashionably fit

ANTI-FOG with UV protection from Speedo goggles

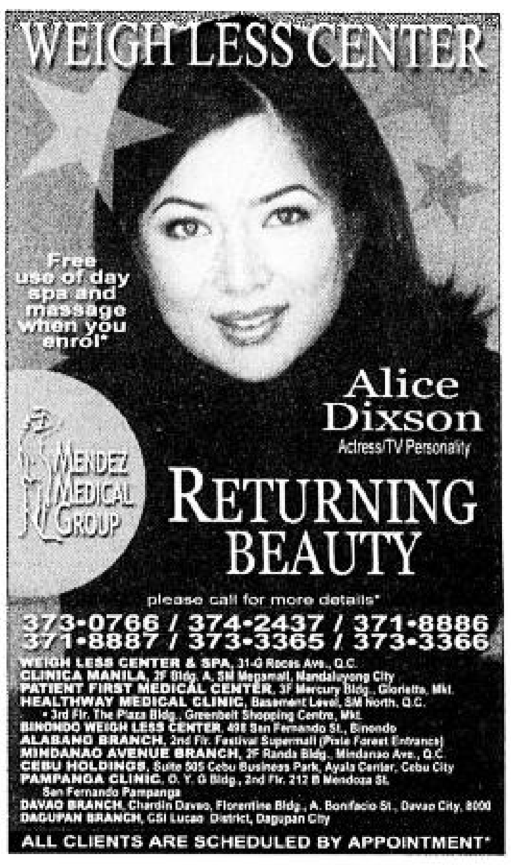
By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

THE VIEW from the treadmill at one gym looks tempting. Café Breton, Casa Armas, Starbucks, UCC Vienna Café, Melo's Steak Factory and Pagliacci—these new restaurants and cafés stare up at those trying to sweat the unwanted pounds off. The restaurants are part of The Podium, the newest upscale mall to make its home in the bustling Ortigas Center, and if they appeal to the appetite, sports and fitness buffs don't have to lose heart. The Podium inside is all the more irresistible for its fabulous fitness shops.

Walking into The Podium, a joint venture between SM Investments and Keppel Philippines Properties Inc., will feel like déjà vu for people who have been to the Pacific Place mall in Hong Kong. Arquitectonica (ARQ), a US-based firm known for its creative ability to design projects with memorable imagery and regional identity, designed the interiors of both malls. Among its design highlights are the grand entrance hall defined by a long curve of shop fronts and the skylight over the atrium—a simple grid curved into a roller coaster-like wave.

Spread over five levels, the sports and fitness stores are designed to please all kinds of athletes and amateurs. Currently, there are four already open to sell to swimmers, runners, golfers and gym-rats—Nike Park, Speedo, Arena, AND 1 and Bridgestone Golf.

A PODIUM/ p.C5


WEIGH LESS CENTER
Free use of day spa and massage when you enrol*
Alice Dixson
Actress/TV Personality
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
RETURNING BEAUTY
please call for more details*
373-0766 / 374-2437 / 371-8886
371-8887 / 373-3365 / 373-3366
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, Basement Level, SM North, Q.C.
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
BINONDO WEIGH LESS CENTER, 498 San Fernando St., Binondo
ALABANG BRANCH, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pixie Forest Entrance)
MINDANAO AVENUE BRANCH, 2F Randa Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA CLINIC, O. Y. G Bldg., 2nd Flr. 212 B Mendoza St. San Fernando Pampanga
DAVAO BRANCH, Chardin Davao, Florentino Bldg., A. Bonifacio St., Davao City, 8000
DAGUPAN BRANCH, CSI Lucao District, Dagupan City
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

Know how sick in 1 second.
ARIVA
1-Second Digital Ear Thermometer
Call:
724-59-07
415-93-78

Get a chance to win
2 Toyota Revos
1st Prize Grand Draw Toyota Revo-SR
1st Prize 2nd Quarter Draw Toyota Revo-DLX
April 19, 2002
Open a HOPE Savings and Current Account at 1st e-Bank
For every P1,000 ADB*, 1st e-Bank will donate P3.00 in your behalf to help fight poverty and to preserve the natural habitat of our wildlife. Proceeds of this program will benefit the street children under the care of Ahon Bata sa Lansangan and the projects of the Philippine Eagle Foundation.
Save, Protect and Win!
With an aggregate deposit of only P20,000.00 in any 1st e-Bank H.O.P.E. account, i.e. Classic Checking, Privilege Checking, Savings Supreme, or Hulugan Savings Account, you help sustain the self-help programs for the poor and promote environmental protection – at no cost to you! You will continue to earn interest on your deposits.
PLUS! Get a chance to win in three quarterly draws and in the grand draw.
1st Quarterly Draw January 25, 2002
• 1st Prize - IBM ThinkPad I-Series
• 2nd Prize - Nokia 8850 Mobile Phone with SIM Card
• 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
• Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)
2nd Quarterly Draw April 19, 2002**
• 1st Prize - One (1) Toyota Revo - DLX
• 2nd Prize - One (1) Sony Wega 73.66cm (29") Tv
• 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
• Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)
3rd Quarterly Draw July 26, 2002
• 1st Prize - IBM ThinkPad I-Series
• 2nd Prize - Nokia 8850 Mobile Phone with SIM Card
• 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
• Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)
Grand Draw October 25, 2002
• 1st Prize - One (1) Toyota Revo-SR
• 2nd Prize - One (1) Home Entertainment Package
• 3rd Prize - A trip for two (2) to Hongkong inclusive of roundtrip tickets, 4D/3N hotel accommodation, and breakfast
• Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,500.00 (10 per region)
* Incremental, year-on-year Average Daily Balance
** Approved by DTI-NCR
HOPE
HELP OUR POOR & THE ENVIRONMENT
Ahon Bata sa Lansangan
Philippine Eagle Foundation
See posters and leaflets for details.
Visit any of our 60 branches nationwide or call our Customer Care Call Center toll-free numbers:
Provincial: 1-800-1-888-7327 • Metro Manila: 817-9101
http://www.1stebank.com.ph
Smart and 'Talk 'n Text' users may send us SMS 'text' messages by using 'FSTE' as the first word of their message and sending it to '200'
Promo period: October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002
1st e-Bank
Formerly PDCP Bank A Thrift Bank
a proud member of BancNet Non-Stop Banking Network
Member PDIC. Deposits insured up to P100,000.00.
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3052, series of 2001.

at the Camera Department
Kodak Digital DX3215Z
only P17,495 with Dock
• 1.3 Megapixel resolution
• 4x Zoom (2x optical & 2x digital)
• 8MB Internal memory
• MMC / SD memory card expansion slot
• Compatible with Kodak EasyShare Camera Dock
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
MAKATI • NORTH EDSA • ORTIGAS

Anesthesia made simple

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IF you are faced with the possibility of needing surgery in the future, chances are, you will need some type of anesthesia to go along with it. Which one you will need depends on a variety of factors, such as the type of surgery you are having and your state of health. Some surgical procedures require only an injection of local anesthesia into the incision area. Other procedures cannot be performed unless you are completely anesthetized—unconscious and unaware of pain.

In the recently launched book, "Local and Regional Anesthetic Blocks Made Simple," Doctors Jim P. Sanchez Jr., Joselito S. Balingit and Richard McCutcheon focus on two types of anesthesia: local and regional. By addressing this topic, the authors hope that readers will have a better understanding of what happens to them while they're anesthetized and perhaps make it a little less mysterious.

Although in general, it's more comfortable for the patient and surgeon to perform certain surgical procedures under general anesthesia, there are situations wherein local or regional anesthetic blocks are preferred.

"General anesthesia may endanger the lives of patients with heart disease or pulmonary edema. And there are patients who are scared of being put to sleep so the doctor blocks the nerves and does the surgery while the patient is awake," says Dr. Sanchez, plastic surgery consultant of St. Luke's Medical Center, Capitol Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Philippine Children's Medical Center and AFP Medical Center.

"Local and regional anesthetics are for patients who cannot afford hospital expenses. The cost of surgery becomes less because one need not spend for anesthetic gas, pre-operative work-up like ECG, chest X-ray and extensive lab exam," says Dr. Balingit, plastic surgery consultant of Far Eastern University NRMF Medical Center and AFP Medical Center.

Dr. Balingit cites hand injury as an example. A doctor can block the nerves that give sensation to the hand along the risk area. The whole hand becomes numb so surgery can be performed right there and then. The patient need not be hospitalized.

Simplified

In "Local and Regional Anesthetic Blocks Made Simple" (which is available at Goodwill Bookstore outlets), the blocks are presented by areas or regions and the procedures are shown through over 160 illustrations and 200 clinical photographs.

"Other books on this topic are so complicated for most practicing doctors. In this book, a doctor can take a look at illustrations of a certain procedure in 10-15 minutes and then perform the surgery or block. This also includes refinements and techniques which have been developed over the years," says Dr. Balingit. "The book is made simple that even a medical intern can use it and practice the techniques," Dr. Sanchez adds.

Local and Regional
Anesthetic Blocks
Made Simple
DR. Joel Balingit (left) and Dr. Jim Sanchez, authors of "Local and Regional Anesthetic Blocks Made Simple"

DR. William Magee and his wife Kathleen, founders of Operation Smile and mentors of Dr. Balingit and Dr. Sanchez, pose with Dr. Sanchez's daughter, Camille.

Surgeons, dermatologists, anesthesiologists and family medicine doctors will benefit from this book, which also emphasizes the importance of being a well-rounded physician. "There is a tendency for some surgeons to do short cuts and proceed to giving local anesthesia and do the surgical procedure," the doctors state in the book's preface.

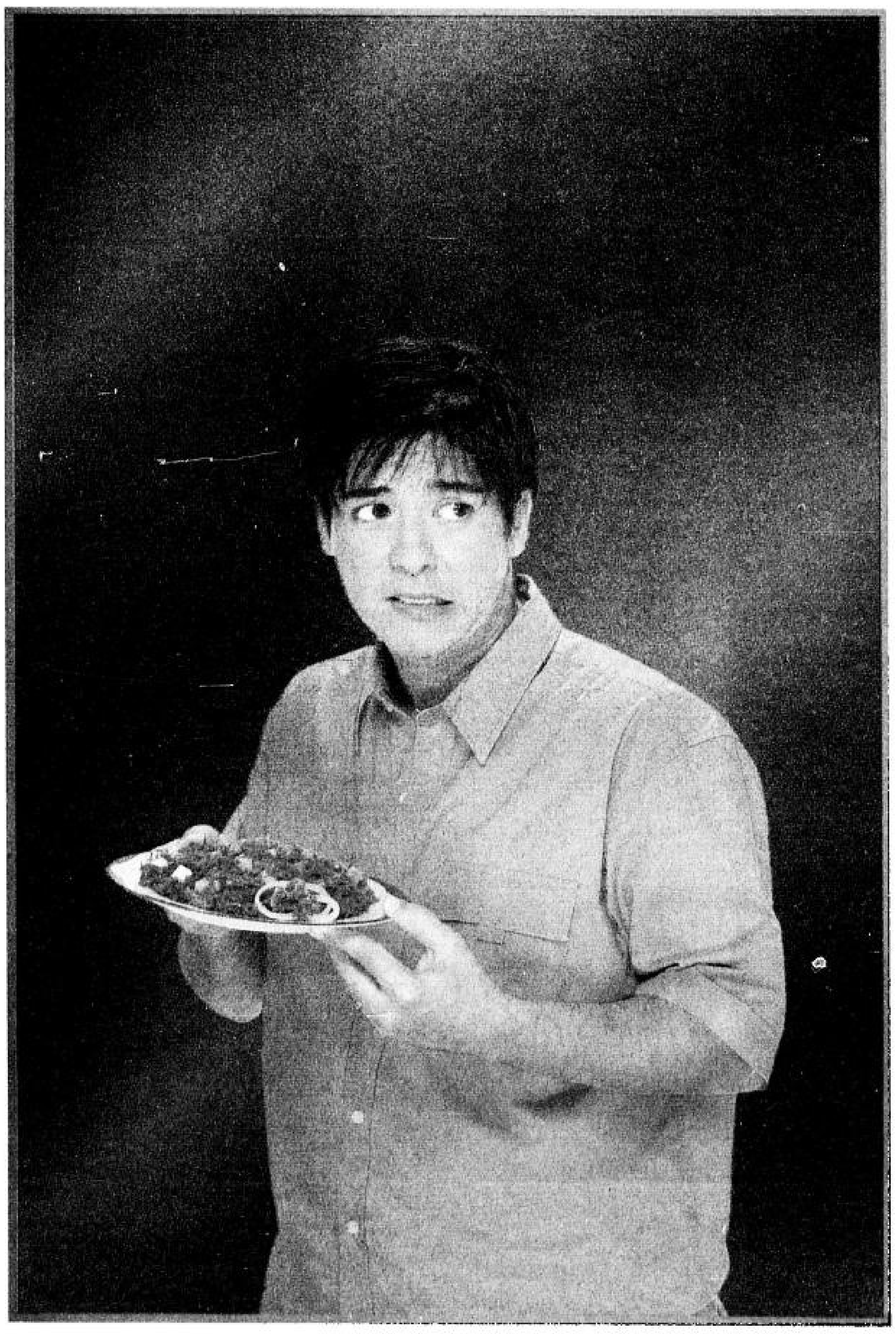
"Our goal is to share our knowledge on anesthetics and not to compete with anesthesiologists. What we're presenting here is an atlas of techniques so the patient can make an informed decision," says Dr. Balingit.

Side effects and complications related to local anesthesia, blockade technique and clinical conditions that may arise during performance of nerve blocks are discussed by Dr. McCutcheon.

For Doctors Sanchez and Balingit, who are also the authors of "Oriental Rhinoplasty: A Logical and Systematic Approach," anesthesiology is an exciting and challenging field because of the continuous development of new drugs, new types of operations and equipment.

With the book hopefully comes the possibility of making the experience a little safer and easier for most people.

E-mail the author at rburgos @inquirer.com.ph



Diabetes info drive launched in rural areas

THE ASSOCIATION of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhop) has launched an intensive nationwide information campaign on effective diabetes prevention and control, called "Operation Diabetes," on the occasion of the recently concluded Amhop National Convention held in Mandaluyong City.

Amhop is an organization composed of public health doctors who run the country's more than 1,400 municipal health centers and form the backbone of the country's public healthcare delivery system.

Operation Diabetes involves the active participation of public health workers and community health volunteers in disseminating information on the prevention, complications and cost-effective management of diabetes especially in rural areas. Activities will also include symposia, further training of public health workers and volunteers, and strengthening of diabetic community support clubs.

Amhop members have been particularly concerned with the need, especially for the underprivileged sectors of the population, to receive adequate information on the prevention and control of diabetes. It is because diabetics belonging to these sectors have difficulty meeting the costs of drugs and healthcare needed for effective control of the disease. This then leads to non-compliance of measures and prescriptions recommended by public doctors and public health workers.

Hence, Operation Diabetes is deemed to help a lot in arresting the rising incidence of diabetes and help poor diabetics effectively cope with its life-long management.

Diabetes, which affects an estimated 5 million Filipinos, continues to be one of the country's top 10 killer diseases. It has been tagged as the "rich man's disease," but this no longer seem so as the incurable disease threatens over 10 million Filipinos who are at risk of acquiring it mainly due to improper diet, stress and inadequate exercise.

Afflicting and posing serious threat to a large majority of Filipinos, not to mention the economic burden that goes with it, such an alarming incidence of diabetes—which when left uncontrolled can lead to various serious complications like kidney and heart diseases, blindness and gangrene leading to amputations—need to be closely addressed.

At the helm of Operation Diabetes is Amhop president Dr. Guia Abad, most noted for spearheading the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers, who will head Operation Diabetes' management committee to oversee the project's implementation especially in rural areas. Its full-time secretariat will be headed by Dr. Elinor Roquel, Herbcare medical training consultant.

Operation Diabetes is a joint project of Amhop and The Herbcare Enterprise, maker of the No. 1-selling anti-diabetic herbal supplement Charantia Ampalaya Health Drink, which is being endorsed by Amhop as cost-effective complement in the proper management of diabetes.

ICTSI administers free clinics in Tondo

SOME 1,000 urban poor families in Parola, Tondo stand to benefit from the ongoing free clinic conducted by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI).

During the first two clinics in February, some 500 families had availed of the free medical and dental checkup. Five hundred more families trooped to ICTSI's free clinic last March.

Aside from checkups, the program also provides free medicines and measles vaccination for children.

Called Gamutan sa Pantalan: Handog ng ICTSI sa Mamamayan ng Parola, the program was spearheaded by the late Enrique Razon Sr., founding chair of ICTSI, in 1990. Since then, the program has become a quarterly community outreach activity of the company every year.

Enrique K. Razon Jr., ICTSI's chair and president, continued the elder Razon's program, institutionalizing it as among ICTSI's corporate social responsibility projects: "ICTSI is not only accountable to its shareholders, clients and government regulators, but also to the community within which we operate."

He added: "We are committed to behave fairly and responsibly and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of our employees and their families, the local community and society at large."

Meanwhile, Evelyn P. Lozada, human resources development senior manager and program proponent said, "We are happy with the turnout of families who have availed of our free clinic program in February. Every year, residents of Parola have been looking forward to this activity."

The Parola urban poor community is located at the access road to the Manila International Container Terminal, operated by ICTSI.

FREE clinic for ICTSI neighbors. Some 1,000 urban families in Parola, Tondo benefit from International Container Terminal Services Inc.'s free clinic program.

"Being our closest neighbor, it's but right and fitting to have Parola residents as the first beneficiaries of our corporate social responsibility agenda," Lozada said.

Judith O. Villanueva, HR health and welfare officer, is the program organizer, while Raul S. Venturina, community relations manager, coordinated with the barangay officials of Parola. In-house doctors, Dr. Zinia D. Perez, physician, and Dr. Al Pestano, dentist, administered the medical and dental consultations, respectively.

PAROLA mothers and children troop to the stations of Doctors Al Pestano and Zinia Perez, in-house dental and medical consultants of ICTSI, for a free medical-dental checkup.

Nightmare death that victimizes only Filipinos

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IN LIGHT of the sudden death of popular young actor, Rico Yan, last week, many people have asked me about *bangungot*, which was the reported cause of his death. There was no sign of foul play or presence of drugs, except for a very insignificant quantity of alcohol in his body. I was out of town when 5 persons, including a well-known movie actress, informed me about his death. Two television companies wanted to interview me on *bangungot*; several asked questions through e-mail.

The questions they asked were: What really is *bangungot*? Is it the same as nightmare? Is it true, as one elementary teacher said to us, that its English translation is "pancreatitis"? Is it true it only happens to Filipinos? Where do souls of *bangungot* victims go? Are they wandering about or trapped somewhere? Why can't a person having *bangungot* move? Has anyone survived an attack of *bangungot*?

First and foremost, I'd like to state clearly here that I do not know whether what happened to Rico Yan is a case of *bangungot*. I have no way of verifying that, so I will speak only in general terms here.

I remember a study made many decades ago by Filipino doctors showing that those who died of so-called *bangungot* suffered from acute pancreatitis brought about by eating a heavy meal consisting mostly of carbohydrate-rich foods such as rice and corn. Whether anyone whose stomach was empty also died of acute pancreatitis was not indicated in the report, as far as I can recall.

There is also something that the doctors discovered in the study. They observed that only Filipinos (and rarely Indonesians and Vietnamese) suffered from the same strange illness. These are people whose diet includes a heavy dose of rice or carbohydrate-rich foods.

But I believe there is more to *bangungot* than a simple case of acute pancreatitis. There is another way of looking at the phenomenon.

Beyond medical science

For this alternative explanation, we have to look beyond western medical science and search the answer in the fields of parapsychology, Eastern religious teachings about the astral body, witchcraft and sorcery.

According to Eastern religions, man is composed not only of mind, body and spirit, but of 7 bodies or vehicles. One of these is called the "astral body" or the etheric double. In the evening, the astral body may travel far out of the physical body and can even be seen at times by a clairvoyant person. There are several realms or planes of existence in the astral world, from the most refined and beautiful state similar to what Christians call "heaven," to the most frightening lower astral regions equivalent to "hell" in the Christian religion.

According to Eastern esoteric teachings, there is a lower region in the astral world called the "phantasmagoric plane" consisting of monster-like and other ugly creatures. They try to pull down or snatch the astral bodies that venture into or lose their way into their realm. That's when the problem begins. A struggle takes place between these negative entities and the sleeping person who now feels he is dreaming. Since he is out of his body, he can't move. He shouts, but no sound comes out of him, except a loud eerie moan. If no one wakes him up in time, his heart stops and he dies. What lures a sleeping person to this lower region, no one knows.

I suspect that a negative attitude or negative emotion may create the right vibration or energy for his astral body to connect to the negative forces of the lower astral planes. But many of those who died of *bangungot* appear to be in high spirits before they slept, the same thing with Rico Yan, as reported by his friends. What then lured his astral body to the lower regions? Perhaps they are happy on the outside but sad on the inside.

A radio listener of mine named Jester e-mailed me a foreword from a book written by American mystery writer Eric Stanley Gardner of "Perry Mason Mysteries" fame regarding *bangungot*, which he calls "nightmare deaths." I quote here some relevant portions from that foreword:

"I first heard of these deaths when I was attending one of Captain Frances G. Lee's seminars on homicide investigation at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. Dr. Milton Helpern, the famous forensic pathologist of New York, was lecturing there and remarked that it was not always possible to determine the cause of death. He cited as an example that he had recently been called upon to examine vital organs from bodies sent him from the Hawaiian islands, and that in each case it had been impossible to discover a cause of death. There was no sign of poison; the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys and all of the vital organs were in perfect working order.

"These men simply had ceased to live, and medical science was powerless to find out why they had ceased to live.

"Driven by intense interest, I finally went to Honolulu and tried to find out about these strange deaths. What I found amazed me. The deaths occurred only in young Filipino men who were in the prime of life and the best of health. These men invariably died at night, under circumstances indicating a nightmare. They would go to bed apparently in the best of spirits. During the night they would be heard moaning. Before help could reach them, they would be dead."

Survivors of 'bangugot'

It is interesting to note that there are also cases of apparent *bangungot* victims who have survived, but there are very few of them.

Continues Erle Stanley Gardner: "I was able to find only one instance of a man who had made a recovery, and it is, of course, impossible to determine whether his experience was the same as that of the men who had died.

"This man was sleeping in a room that he had shared with a young, alert and very muscular Japanese. In the middle of the night the Japanese heard this Filipino emitting the peculiar moans associated with this dreaded type of death.

"Acting with rare presence of mind, the Japanese hurled himself physically upon the Filipino, as though coming to grips with an unknown force, and he succeeded either in awakening the Filipino from a nightmare while he was still alive or in fighting off the invisible forces of witchcraft, whichever you wish to believe.

"I manage to locate this Japanese. I interviewed him, photographed him, and secured not only his story but the story that had been given him by the Filipino after he had awakened from his all-but-fatal 'nightmare.' "

Concludes Gardner: "These nightmare deaths are tremendously interesting, and the fact that they exist at all is a challenge. It shows the need of giving more and more attention to legal medicine and of educating a greater number of forensic pathologists."

Since Erle Stanley Gardner wrote that foreword to his book, "The Case of Sunbather's Diary" in 1955, very little progress has been made in our knowledge of the cause of these nightmare deaths and their prevention. This should really pose a challenge to our medical researchers and forensic experts.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

A few years back, I met an accident that required me to undergo surgery for internal bone fixation with metal bone plates and screws. MEDICard covered for the hospitalization and surgery, but not for the metal implants. Is this correct, why?

Yes, it is. Internal devices such as plates, screws and intermedullary (IM) nails are not covered under the standard HMO program. These items are classified under corrective appliances together with artificial aids and prosthetic devices, which are part of the standard exclusions of coverage. That is why you had to pay for the metal plates and screws implanted.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Rosalia C. Campo has been a member of MEDICard's top-notch medical service providers for more than three years now. Today, she addresses the health needs of MEDICard members at the World Citi Medical Center (WCMC), the former QCMC. Doc Sally, as she is to most, finished her degree in Medicine from UERMMMC. She later pursued residency training for her specialization in Pediatrics at Quezon City General Hospital. Her persistence, dedication and hard work has earned her a Diplomate degree to the Philippine Pediatric Society. She is also a member to the Philippine Medical Association and Manila Medical Society. Outside her clinical practice, she spends most of her time with family and friends. Visit Dr. Campo for your pediatric consultation needs at her clinic, room 210 of WCMC every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM to 2 in the afternoon.

Contract Signing

MEDICard
ISO 9002 Certified

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the country's most read newspaper, signed its 11th year renewal of the healthcare agreement with MEDICard for the HMO program of its employees and dependents last April 03 at the Bayview Park Hotel. Present during the contract signing were (Sitting L-R) Mr. Jesse Francis Rebustillo (PDI Corp. HR Head), Mr. David Valdez (PDI Sr. VP-Corp. Services), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard President) and Mr. Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM); (Standing L-R) Ms. Joy Mendiola (MEDICard Asst. Supervisor, Marketing Services), Ms. Girlie Guales (PDI Personnel Asst.), Ms. Thillie Panlilio (PDI Performance Management Administrator), Ms. Rose Viray (PDI Compensation Management Head), Dr. Nicky Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director), Ms. Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Asst. Manager, Marketing Services) and Ms. Rachel Cucio (PDI ESDC Coordinator)

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. de la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

UKAS

Shedding more light . . .

From page C8

pancreas," he says. "The organ doesn't regenerate, and no hospital in the country has the facilities to conduct transplants."

Real culprits

Just what does the pancreas do in a person's digestive system? Located near the stomach, the pancreas is responsible for secreting insulin and a number of potent enzymes that further help in our digestion. The food we eat is initially broken down in the stomach then goes to the small intestines where these enzymes do their work.

In some cases, however, the passageway connecting the pancreas to the small intestines is blocked. Instead of helping digest food, the trapped enzymes in the pancreas are activated and begin eating the organ itself, resulting in its necrosis.

And what obstructs the flow of these enzymes? Certainly not our obstructionist politicians, although their antics can also be life threatening in a totally nasty way. Rather, the real culprits are the gallstones produced by the gallbladder, an organ responsible for producing bile, which shares this passageway with the pancreas.

"Seventy percent of necrotizing pancreatitis is either caused by gallstones or alcohol," says Pangilinan. "Some people are 'stone-formers.' A chemical imbalance in their bodies causes them to develop gallstones. We also see a trend among certain families, but we have yet to connect the development of gallstones with diet."

Having regular ultrasounds is one of the easiest and most reliable ways to detect the formation of gallstones. Undergoing an ultrasound has now become part of an executive exam, but it has yet to become a routine procedure in annual physical checkups. It's no guarantee, however, that one will be spared from necrotizing pancreatitis in the future.

No tell-tale signs

What's even scarier is it doesn't come with any tell-tale signs until it's too late. An acute attack is usually accompanied by severe and continuous stomach pain that radiates to the back. Surprisingly, not all people who suffer from such severe stomach pain are roused from their sleep.

"There are plenty of 'what ifs' surrounding Rico's death," says Pangilinan. "Of course, it would have immensely boosted his chances of surviving had the attack happened while he was awake. Doctors could have probably attended to him sooner."

If that were the case, however, there was little Pangilinan or any specialist could do to help Rico in remote Dos Palmas. "He needed to be airlifted immediately to Manila or the nearest hospital with an ICU equipped to handle such cases."

As for Rico's legendary snoring, the doctor has yet to hear of people dying directly from apnea, a condition wherein the body is unable to get enough oxygen during sleep.

"Either a person's tongue has fallen back or breathing has ceased temporarily," he says of apnea. "As soon as oxygen levels in the blood fall, the brain will automatically signal the lungs to inhale or move the respiratory muscles. Some people thus find themselves waking up in the middle of the night trying to catch their breaths."

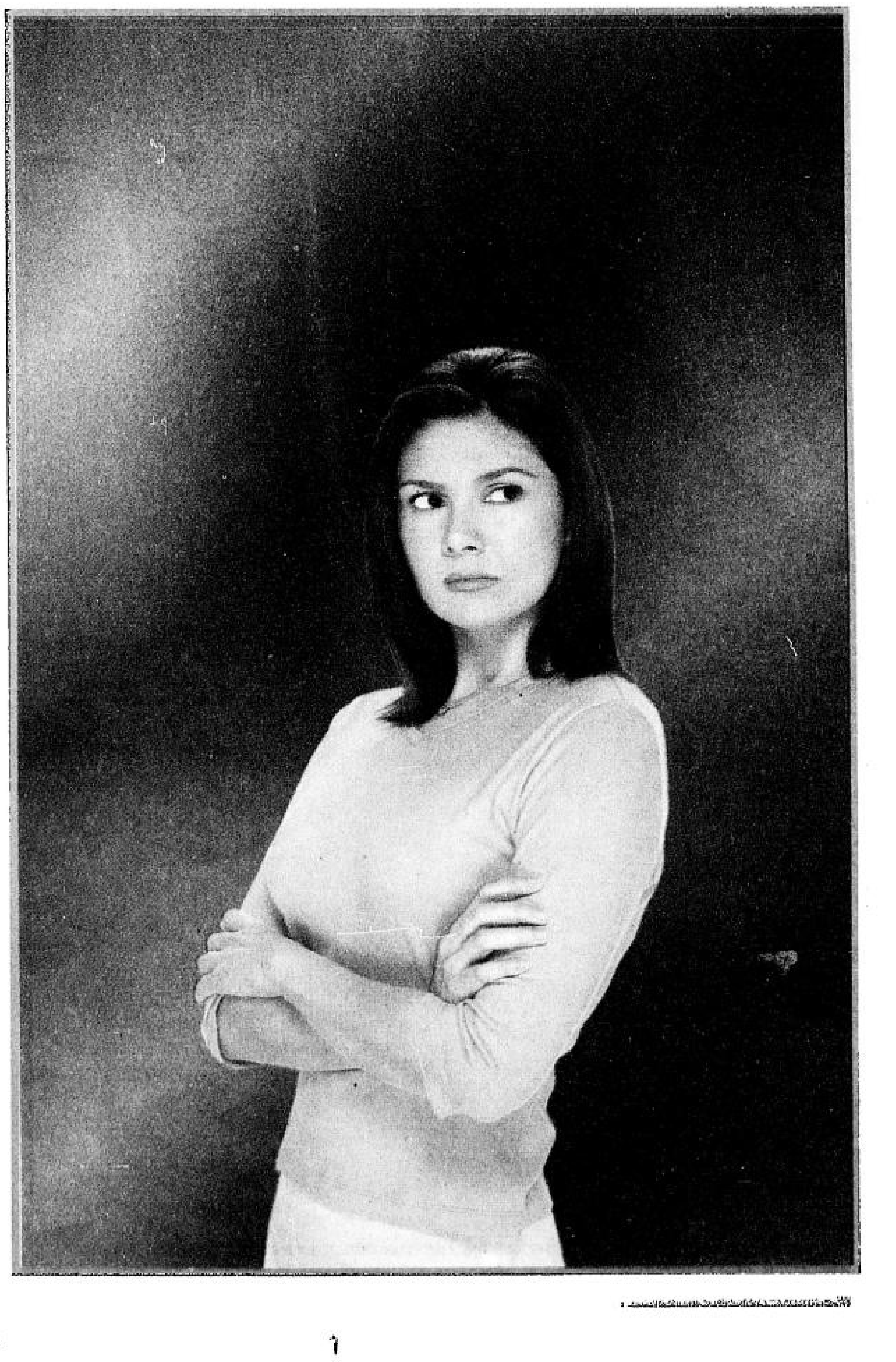
The dreaded *bangungot*, he adds, isn't synonymous to pancreatitis. Majority of the victims—young, healthy men between the ages of 25-40—die in their sleep because of irregular electrical impulses in the heart.

"I'm not talking about coronary heart disease that commonly afflicts older people," he says. "When the heart's electrical system becomes erratic, it causes the heart to beat irregularly. That's the more common cause of *bangungot*."

Pangilinan is also unable to explain why *bangungot* is prevalent among young, Southeast Asian men, particularly of Malay descent. "One theory is it's more common for us [Malays] to develop stones," he says.

In the absence of any conclusive piece of evidence linking *bangungot* to any of these theories, Rico and those before him who died of the fatal condition have taken its secrets to their graves.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



Healthy women do jiggle

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THE TITLE above is not mine. It's a phrase that comes from a book called "The Fit or Fat Woman" by weight-loss expert Covert Bailey. I was reminded of it when, like many other people, I trooped off to the beach with my extended family to spend the Holy Week break.

We were about 30 people ranging from 4-year-olds to 60-year-olds. The below-18 girls are all involved in sports and the above-18 ladies are all gym regulars. In other words, relatively fit females of normal weight.

The reason I remembered the phrase "healthy women do jiggle" is because with the exception of prepubescent girls, all the women there (from teenagers upward) had a slight jiggle somewhere on their body. This "jiggling" is not obvious in street clothes but it can be seen in a skimpy bathing suit. In contrast, the men (even those who were slightly overweight and non-exercisers) hardly jiggled as they moved around.

The reason I am writing about all this jiggling and non-jiggling is to point out that women are really meant to have softer and more rounded bodies than men. A healthy body fat percentage for a man is approximately 9-15 percent of total body weight while for a woman it is 18-25 percent. Men have more muscle, less fat while women have less muscle, more fat.

Nature has made it this way because a woman needs an adequate amount of fat to be fertile (ovulation and menstruation don't usually start until a young girl has at least 15-17-percent fat), carry a pregnancy to term and breast-feed even in times when food is scarce. Even at 20-percent body fat, some areas of a woman's body will jiggle.

Writing about the hip and thigh area in his book, Bailey observes that "the buttock and thigh muscles may be quite firm, but most women, unless they are very young or have inherited thin legs and hips, carry a wiggling layer of fat in that area. Even super-athletic women—those who play professional tennis or run marathons—are not as solid in the hips and thighs as their moderately active male friends. This is simply part of being a woman."

Women with slim legs may not have jiggly thighs but they may have triceps (back of the arms) that "wave" slightly when they wave at someone or little rolls of fat around the waist that are only obvious when they slouch in a seat. It is rare to find a woman who is completely firm in all the areas of her body. Even female bodybuilders cannot maintain their statue-like firmness the entire year. It is too taxing on their health to keep body fat levels low enough to have the leanness of a man.

Looking at the pre-pubescent girls in our family, my sister noted that they have the figure proportions of fashion models—thin legs, no hips, flat stomachs, narrow waists, etc. Prepubescent girls of normal weight don't jiggle because they have the body fat percentage of boys the same age. But when they hit puberty and estrogen starts flooding their bodies, their femaleness appears as fat in the breasts, lower abdomen, hips, buttocks and thighs. That's why the body of an average healthy woman jiggles.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Models, meanwhile, are "genetic freaks." I don't say this in a disparaging way but simply to explain that they are not representative of the average woman. It is unrealistic to want to look like them.

It is also unrealistic to want to look like your favorite movie or music star because even they don't look the way they do in the movies or the magazines the way they really do in real life. What you see on screen and in print is largely an illusion created by makeup artists, hairstylists, fashion designers, favorable lighting and flattering camera angles and filters. Facial and body flaws can be airbrushed or retouched via computers.

On our family's out-of-town trips, my mother likes to bring what she calls "toilet magazines"—imported gossip tabloids like the National Enquirer—for light reading while lounging around. One of the issues she brought had a 32-page spread on "How the stars really look." Much as I don't agree with the way the paparazzi aggressively stalk celebrities to photograph them off-guard, one beneficial thing they do is reveal that models and movie stars are just like you and me. They have their bad hair days, their skin doesn't always glow, their thighs have cellulite, their weight fluctuates up and down, etc.

So don't be so hard on yourself. No one really has a perfect body or even if they did, they wouldn't be able to maintain it forever (age catches up on everyone). It's important for your psychological well-being to have a healthy attitude toward your appearance. Improve what you can by exercising, eating right, choosing appropriate clothes for your figure, taking care of your skin, having plastic surgery if you feel you need to, etc. but gracefully (rather than grudgingly) accept what you cannot change, like your height, growing old and those areas of your body that jiggle in spite of everything you do.

* * *

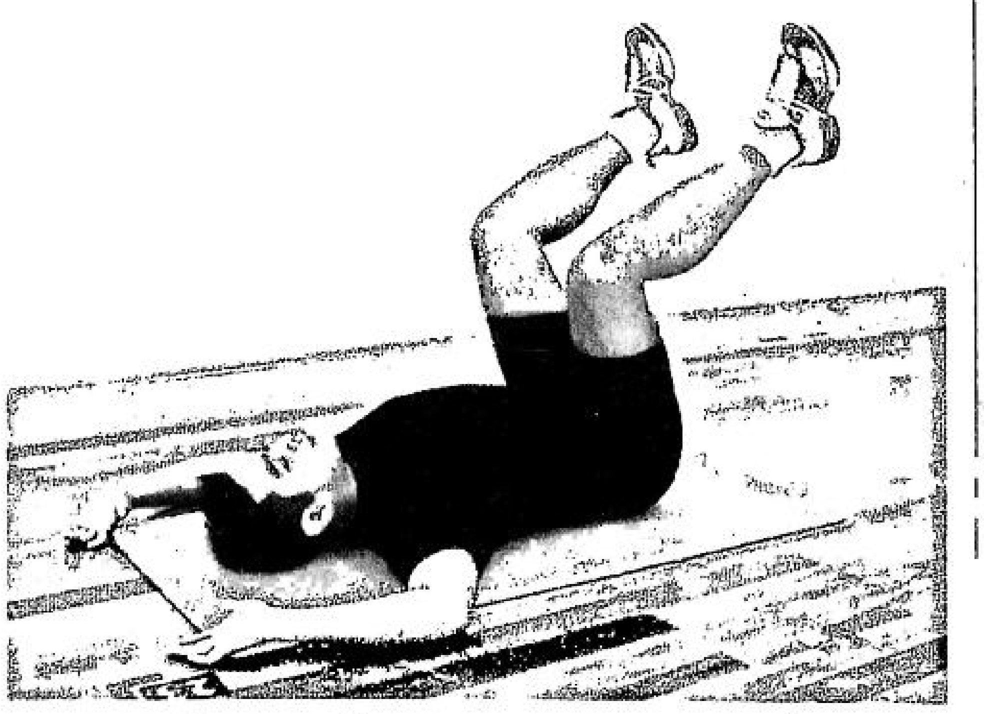
The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold its Provincial Fit Tours in the following areas: Cebu (April 12-14, call Veronica Enriquez at [032] 234-1643 or e-mail fitadcbu@mozcom.com), Cagayan de Oro (April 24-26, call Julie Ang at [088] 857-5416 or e-mail Shirley Quejada at outfit@consultant.www.ph). The tour includes a two-day Basic Instructor Course and a one-day Fitness Workshop.

AFPP will also hold a Manila fitness seminar on April 20 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC. Topics will include Yogilates, Aerobics for Kids, Thyroid Problems and Exercise, Sports Training for Basketball Players. Call Doris Rivera at 850-7647.

The Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines will hold its 11th Annual Convention titled "Global Trends and Local Issues in Sports" on May 17-18 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Ermita. Call 521-9123, fax 522-2374 or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com.

For past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Open leg reverse curl

STRENGTHENS the front and sides of abdominal muscles. This also challenges abdominal muscles to contract from bottom up rather than from the top down.

Equipment:
Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

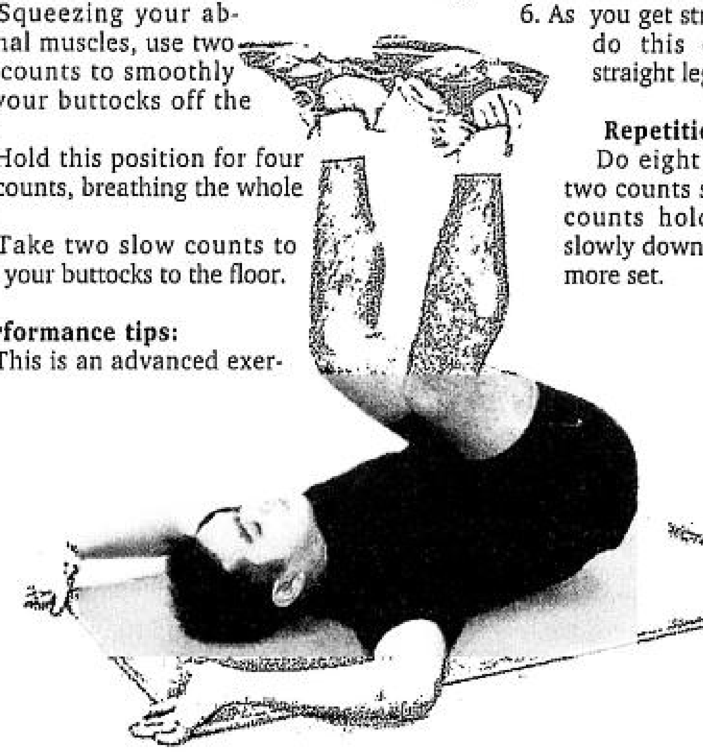
1. Lie on your back with your arms in a "surrender" position, your legs lifted with knees over hips and open slightly wider than hip width.
2. Squeezing your abdominal muscles, use two slow counts to smoothly curl your buttocks off the floor.
3. Hold this position for four slow counts, breathing the whole time.
4. Take two slow counts to lower your buttocks to the floor.

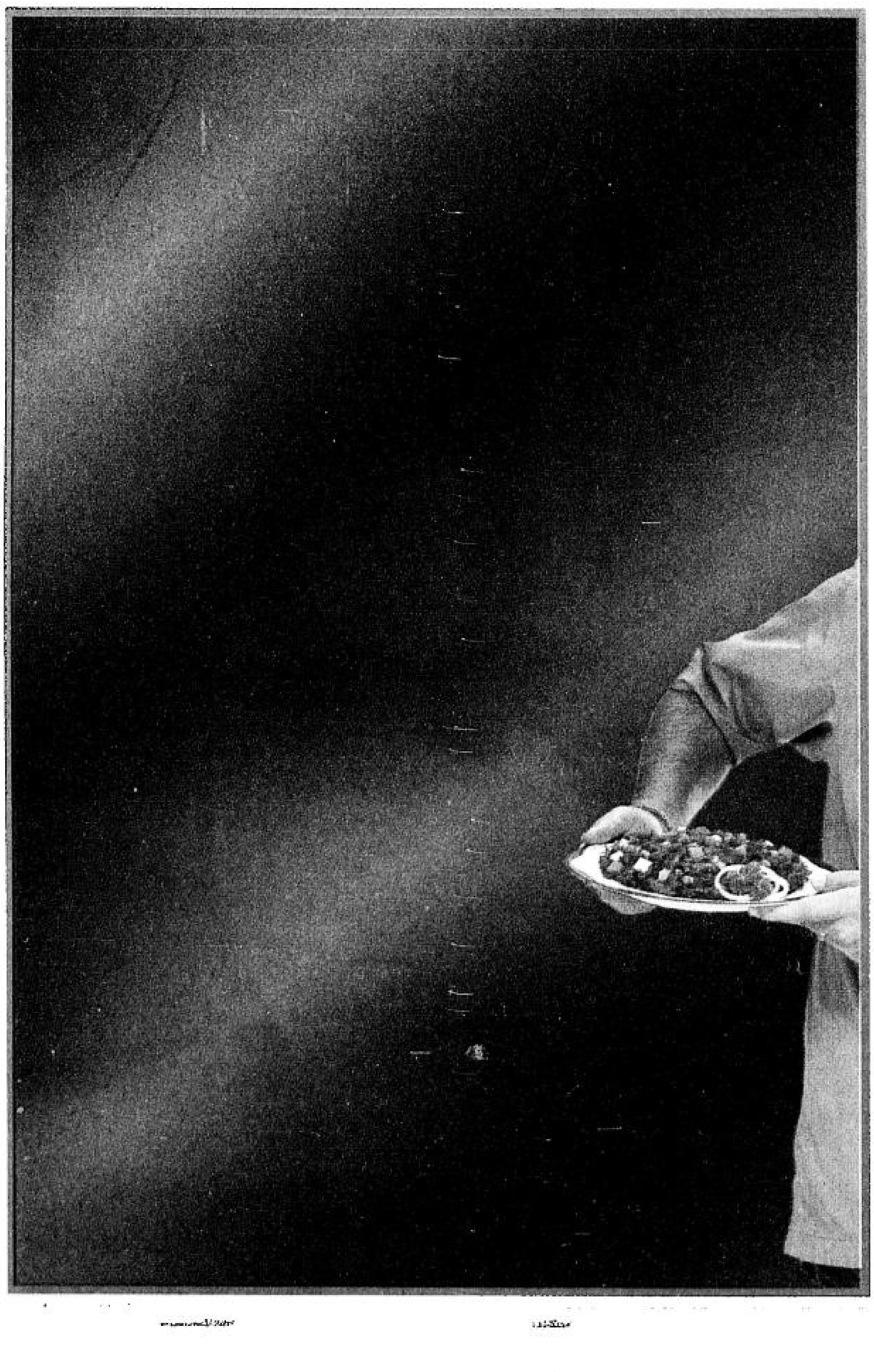
Performance tips:

1. This is an advanced exercise.
2. All the movements in this exercise are done between the hip bones and ribcage. The legs should not be rocking back and forth.
3. Do not expect to lift the buttocks very high off the floor.
4. Move slowly. Avoid jerking the body to get the buttocks off the floor. Use the contraction in the abdominal muscles to do this.
5. If this bothers your lower back in any way, avoid this exercise.
6. As you get stronger, you can do this exercise with straight legs.

Repetitions:

Do eight repetitions of two counts slowly up, four counts hold, two counts slowly down. Rest. Do one more set.





Go for the gold with space-age equipment

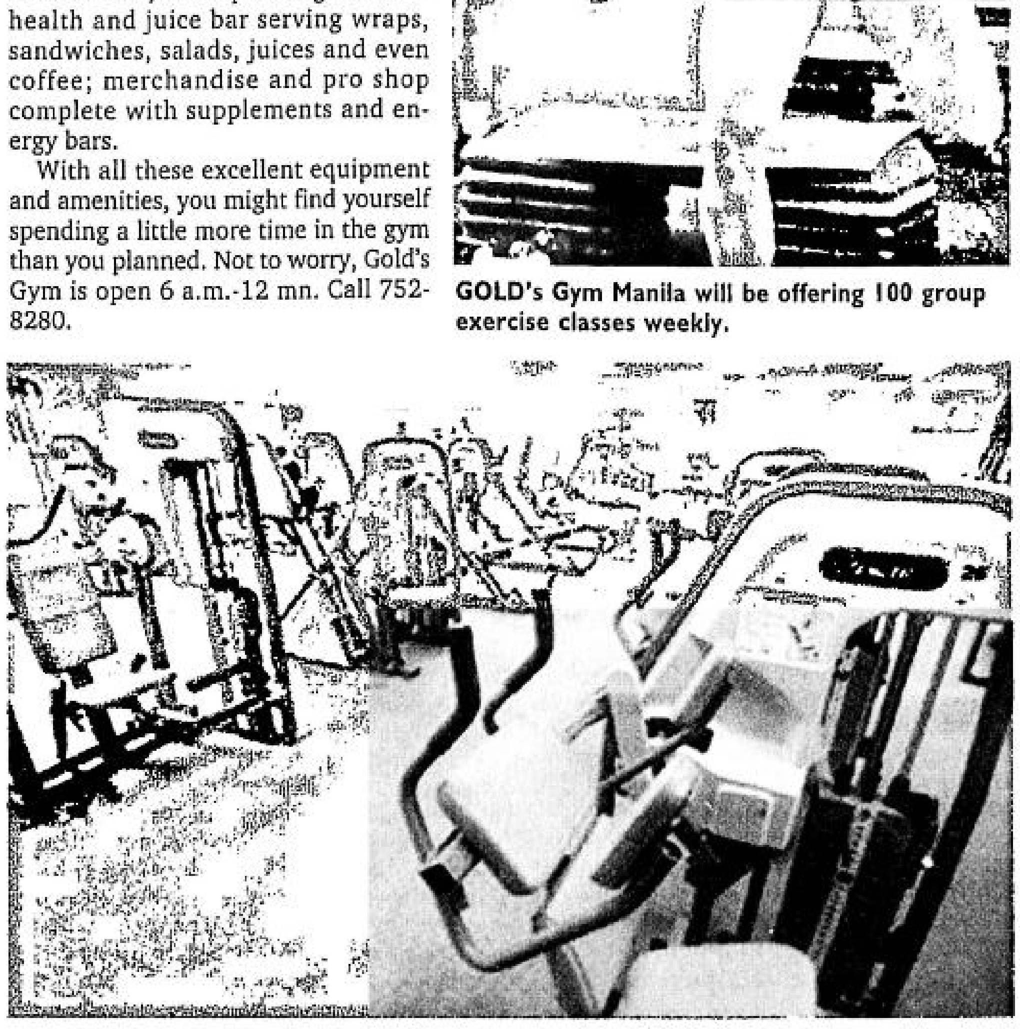
GOLD'S Gym introduces introduces treadmills that let you run to the beat. At least 40 advanced treadmills with audio installations will be available only at Gold's. And the view isn't bad either. The treadmills overlook Glorietta Park.

With three levels, Gold's Gym in Glorietta 3 at the Ayala Center is practically a workout roaming the 1,000-sq-m (at least) area occupied by premium fitness equipment from Nautilus, Flex, Paramount, Hammer, Strength, Iron Grip, etc.

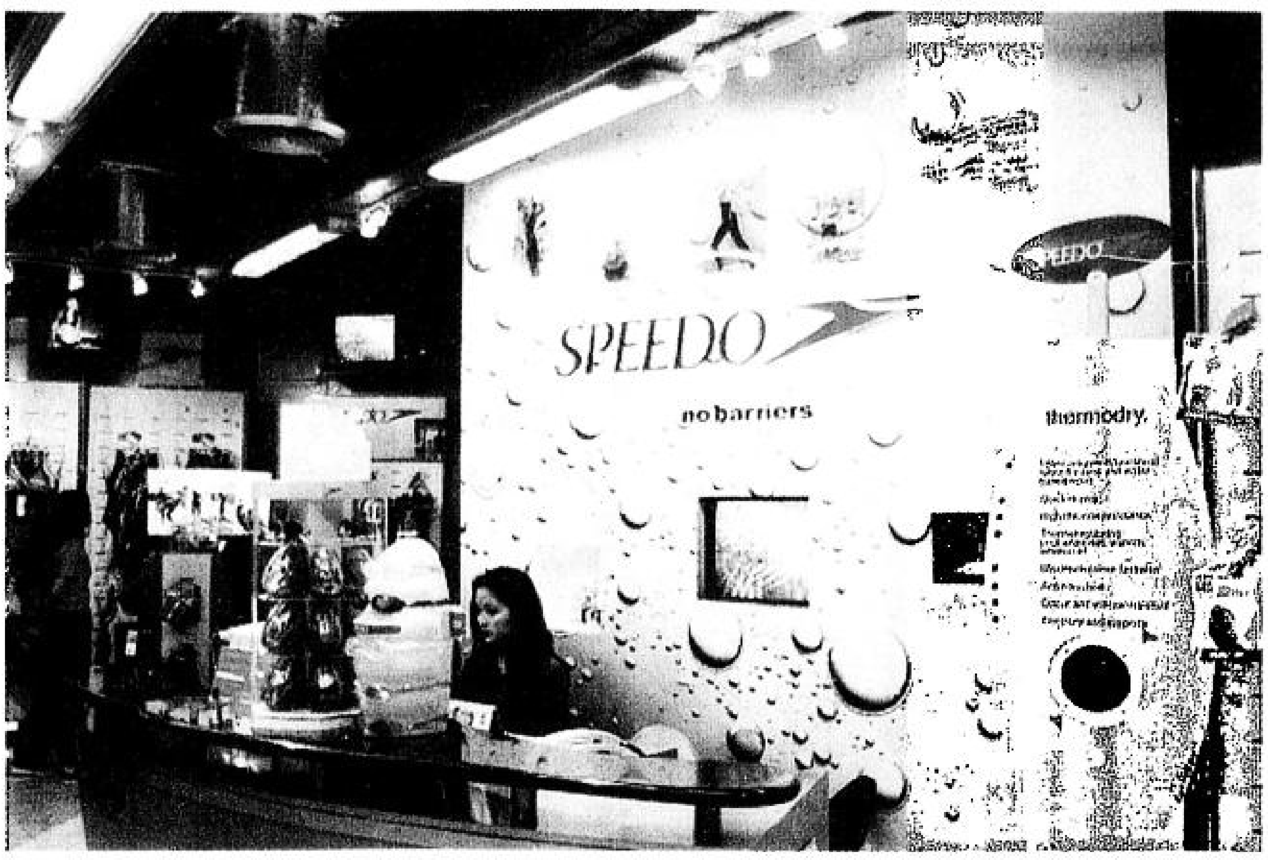
The experience gets even better with first-class amenities. The gym is complete with 300 lockers, towels included, showers, steam and sauna facilities. Plus, some pleasing extras—health and juice bar serving wraps, sandwiches, salads, juices and even coffee; merchandise and pro shop complete with supplements and energy bars.

With all these excellent equipment and amenities, you might find yourself spending a little more time in the gym than you planned. Not to worry, Gold's Gym is open 6 a.m.-12 mn. Call 752-8280.

GOLD's Gym Manila will be offering 100 group exercise classes weekly.

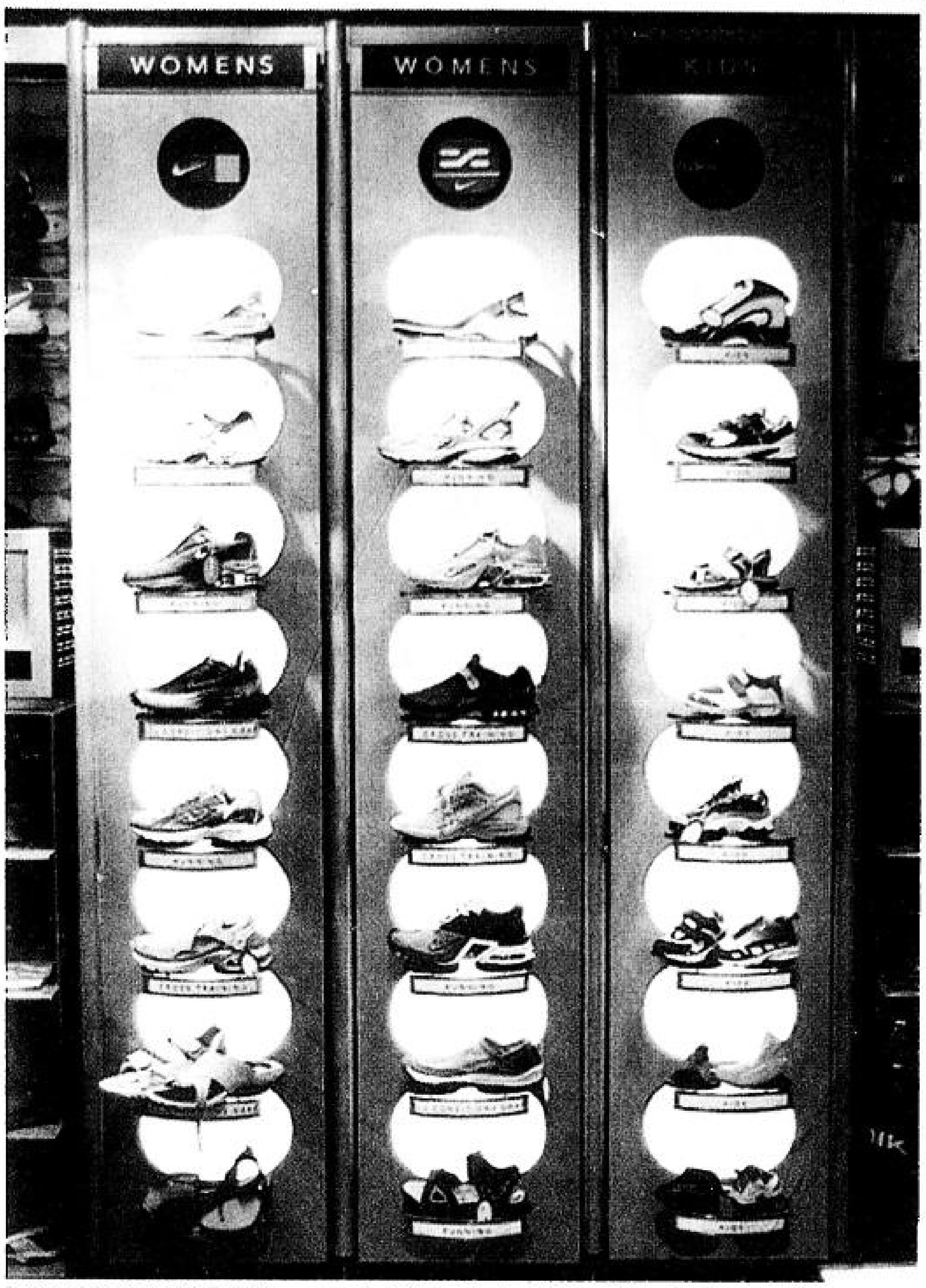


TOP-OF-THE-LINE equipment from Nautilus

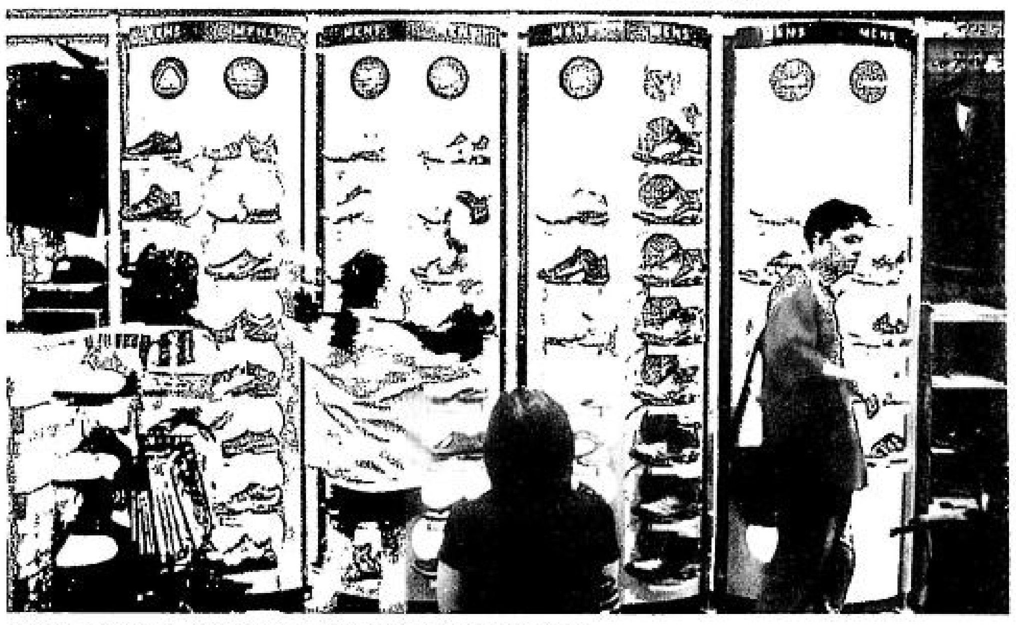


LITTLE MERMAID WOULD LOVE THIS. Speedo shop at The Podium

A podium for those who want to be fashionably fit



NOT FOR MEN ONLY. Women and children's shoe line at Nike Park



JUST SHOE IT. Nike men's athletic shoe collection

From page C1

Golf, anyone?

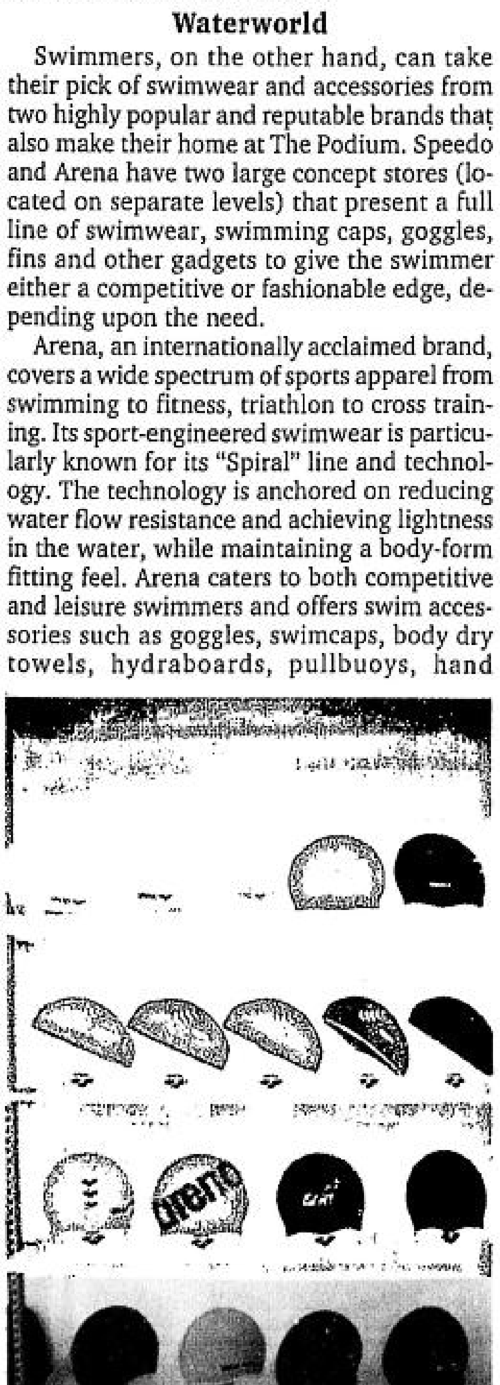
Green aficionados will delight in knowing that Bridgestone Golf has opened its first concept store in Manila at The Podium. Bridgestone is Japan's No. 1 golf brand due mainly to the success of their popular Tourstage, Precept, Newing, Paradiso and Reygrande golf lines. In the United States, the tremendous success of the McLady golf ball made Bridgestone a household name. On the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour, top professionals such as Nick Price, Tom Watson, Justin Leonard and Stuart Appleby represent Bridgestone. The golf store offers a complete range of golf clubs, apparel and accessories to fit all levels of golfers.

Basketball players and fans alike will enjoy looking over AND 1's cool and unique line of merchandise. Its "Trash Talk" T-shirt line is as popular as the reversible jerseys. Their line of basketball shoes includes the very popular and comfortable Postgame style shoes (no shoelaces) which made a huge impact on the footwear industry when they were introduced in 2000. Their Performance line of shoes boasts the claim that their shoelaces never fray or break. AND 1 carries sizes up to 14 - 15 and is a highly popular brand worldwide. Among the NBA athletes who are known to wear AND 1 shoes are Desmond Mason of Seattle Supersonics, Darrell Armstrong of Orlando Magic, Kevin Garnett of Minessota Timberwolves and Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons to name a few. Locally Noy Castillo of Purefoods, Vince Hizon of Red Bull, Ali Peek of Alaska Aces and Rich Alvarez of the Ateneo use and endorse AND 1 shoes.

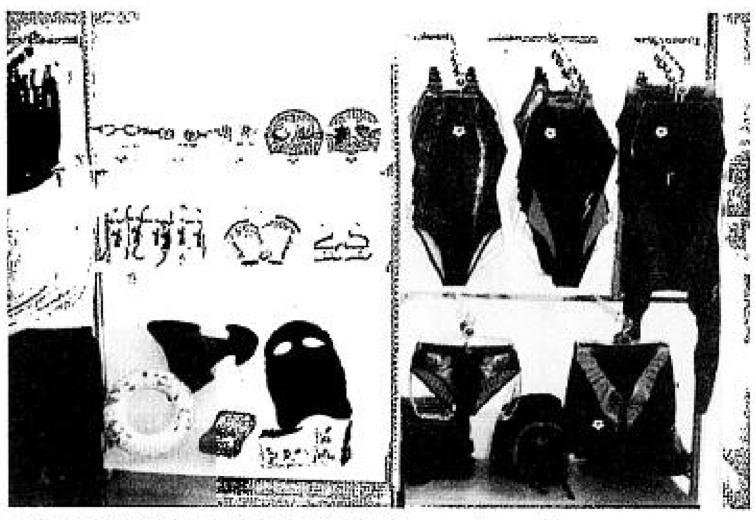
Waterworld

Swimmers, on the other hand, can take their pick of swimwear and accessories from two highly popular and reputable brands that also make their home at The Podium. Speedo and Arena have two large concept stores (located on separate levels) that present a full line of swimwear, swimming caps, goggles, fins and other gadgets to give the swimmer either a competitive or fashionable edge, depending upon the need.

Arena, an internationally acclaimed brand, covers a wide spectrum of sports apparel from swimming to fitness, triathlon to cross training. Its sport-engineered swimwear is particularly known for its "Spiral" line and technology. The technology is anchored on reducing water flow resistance and achieving lightness in the water, while maintaining a body-form fitting feel. Arena caters to both competitive and leisure swimmers and offers swim accessories such as goggles, swimcaps, body dry towels, hydraboards, pullbuoys, hand paddles, ear plugs and nose clips to complete the swimmer's needs and to provide the tools for a winning form.



ARENA swimcaps galore in latex and silicone



UNDERWATER ADVENTURE. Swimgear from Arena

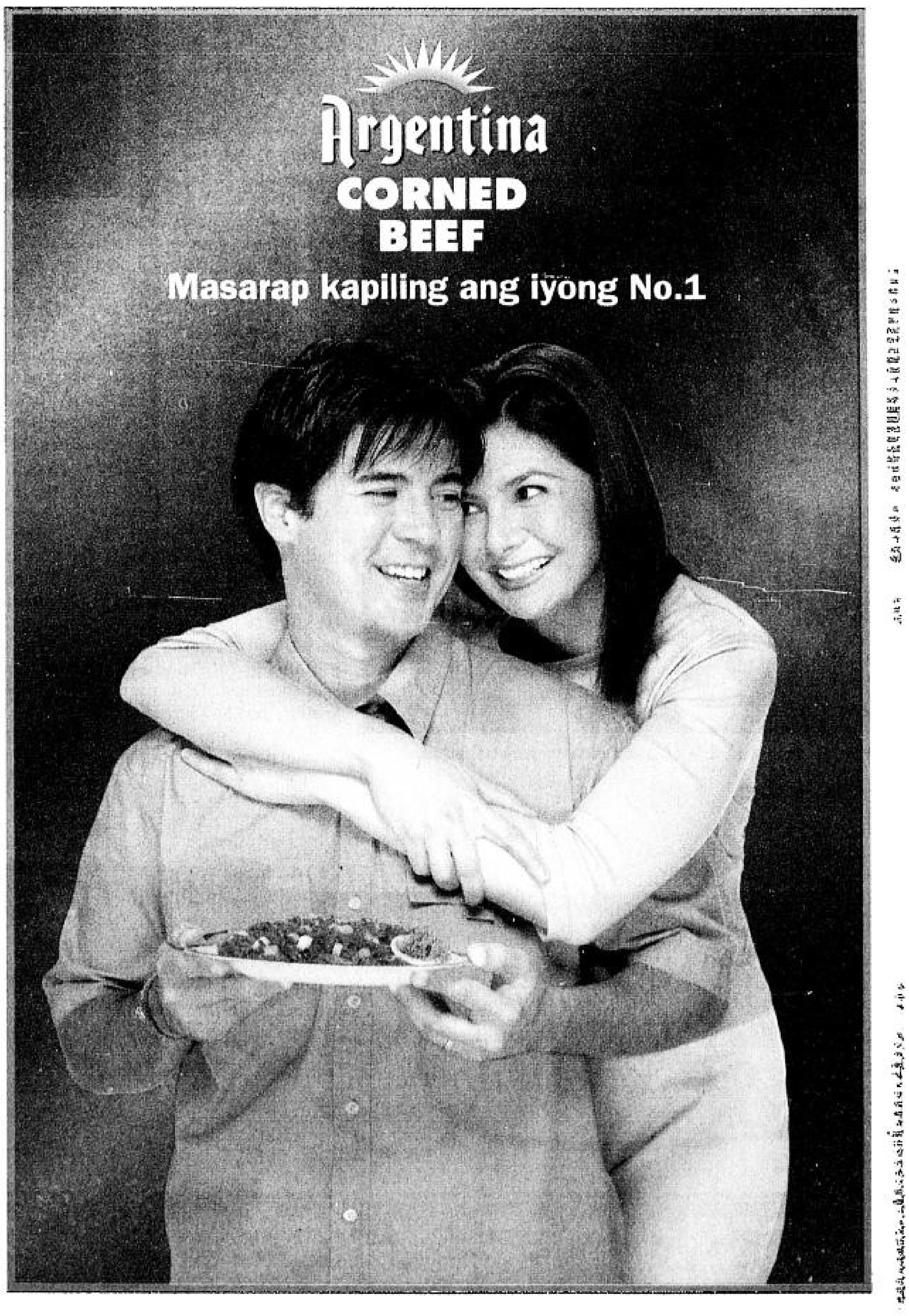
Shopping till you drop the pounds applies here because they have fabulous stocks of sportswear and accessories

Speedo has four major categories of merchandise. The Swimwear line is for training, competition and leisure in the water; the Beach line has products used for activities near or on the beach; Multi-sport has products used for sporting activities other than swimming; and other equipment which is a line of products that aid and complement the other three categories mentioned. Speedo's most popular line is its swimwear, which is divided into three categories. The Training line has no lycra (the absence of lycra eliminates swimwear degeneration and adds drag to the suit that is beneficial for training, or so Speedo claims). The Competition line, on the other hand, has suits with more lycra and involves water dynamics. Its tighter material makes the swimmer skim through water and reduces the water drag. Silhouettes in this line lean toward those with back support for control and prevents straps from falling off the shoulders. Speedo also claims that their suits have low moisture absorption, is 7.5 percent faster than all other suits (Competition) and because of its low moisture-absorption is quick-drying. Their men's line of water-shorts has the sand management system, which prevents sand and water from being trapped inside the garment, and a mesh lining that minimizes the ballooning effect. The shop also carries cute and colorful wetsuits that protect young children from UV rays. Speedo also carries a selection of goggles that are anti-fog and with UV filters as well as other swim gear like kickboards, paddles and buoys.

Just do it

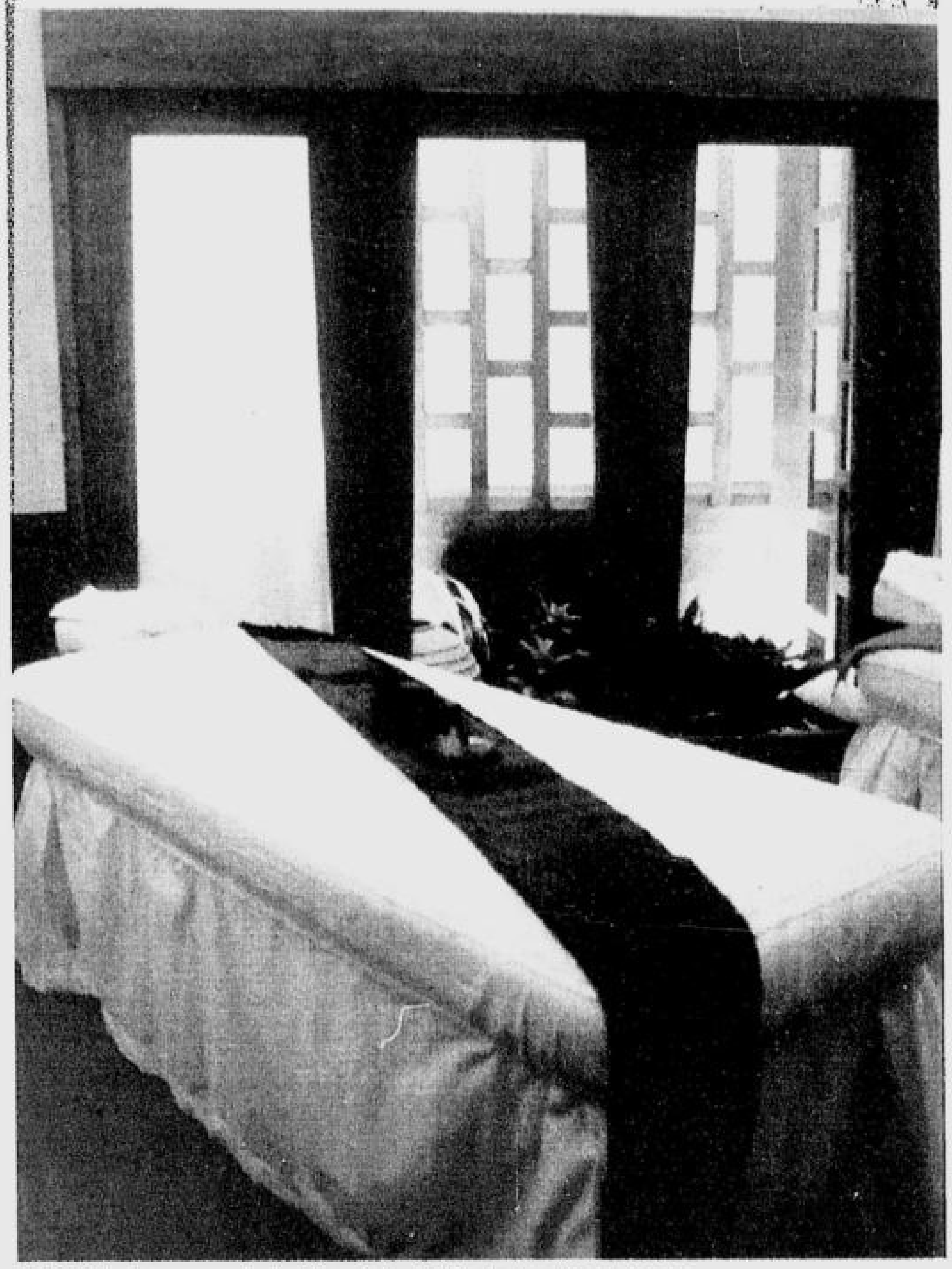
Nike Park carries a full range of running, walking and cross-training gear—shoes, bags, socks, Nike timeware (watches specially designed for athletes at heart). There is also a golf collection endorsed by no less than Tiger Woods, with its full range of golf bags, shoes, gloves, apparel (men and women) sure to convert even non-golfers to donning them. The best part about this Nike Park shop is the collection of shoes available for men, women and children—running, walking, cross-training and even basketball shoes. Lined up against the wall in various colors and styles, they're a visual feast. Irresistible. Just do it! One walks out of the mall with a new pair of running shoes and an eagerness to try them out on the treadmill. Except for one problem: On the way out, the coffee and cheesecake beckon. The Podium, upscale and elegant, has temptation written all over it.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



Argentina
CORNED
BEEF
Masarap kapiling ang iyong No.1

SPA products from Bali Spa and Wellness Center



THAI interiors accentuate The Oriental Spa's treatment rooms.

Almost heaven

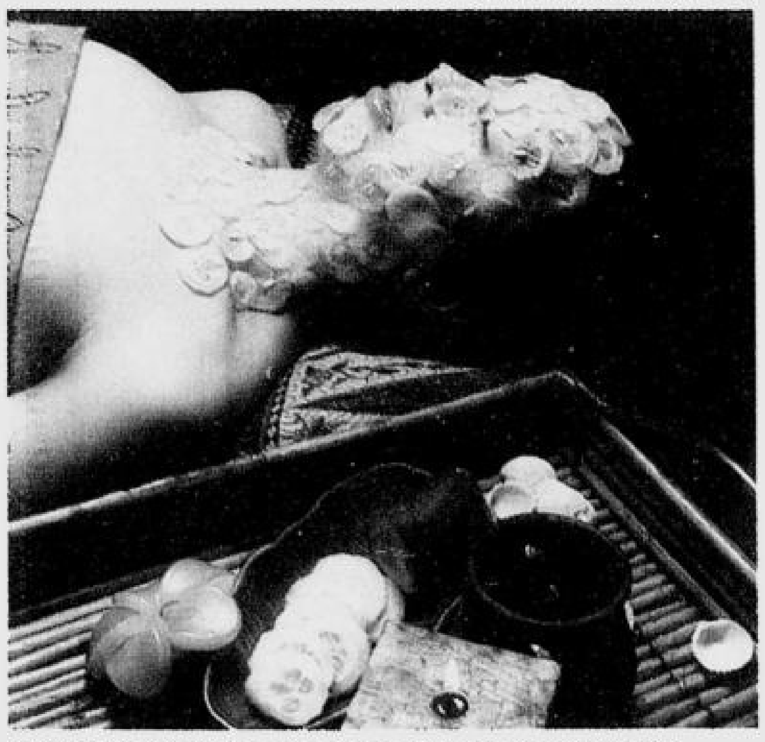
IF you haven't been to a spa, you will not understand when habitues say it's paradise regained. But not all spas are created equal. The best spas are those that offer a full range of pampering in immaculately clean facilities. Oh, and let's not forget the scented oils, the luxurious salts, the refreshing mudpacks and all other ingredients that relax body and soul.

The Spa

A new branch at the Promenade, Alabang Town Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa, with its refreshing tropical theme, The Spa promises to give visitors the same pleasurable experience as its sister spa at Acropolis in Libis, QC where the interiors are European-inspired.

Aside from the rejuvenating massage therapies and remedial fitness programs that foster a sound mind and perfect physique, The Spa offers a wide variety of facial and body care services that are sure to pamper from head to foot: Ayurveda treatments from India, Citrus Body Polish and Purifying Clay Masque (also from Bali), Fango Mud Facial, direct from Terme de Montecatini Spa in Italy, and Phytomer Facial Marine cosmetics from St. Malo, France.

New treatments to look forward to include the New Northern Thai massage, Asian Foot Therapy and Indian Head Massage, which will definitely soothe the senses and release the stress of modern living.



PAMPER yourself with one of Dos Palmas' aromatic facials.

Also highlighting the list of The Spa's latest innovation is the world-renowned LCN Light Concept Nail. LCN primarily aims to facilitate treatment and restoration of stressed and dull nails.

A proud member of the International Spa Association (Ispa), a prestigious organization representing over 1,400 spa and fitness facilities and providers worldwide, The Spa, opening soon in Bel-Air, Jupiter, spearheaded the advent of other top-flight fitness centers in the Metropolis since its establishment in 1996.

Call the Acropolis branch at 634-2848/2709/2473 or the Alabang branch at 850-3490/6836.

The Oriental Spa

Treat yourself and your loved one to a relaxing summer break with Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Spa Stay Package. The luxurious room package currently being offered at P4,988++ for a single occupancy and P7,988++ for a double occupancy, including such perks as a soothing spa treatment.

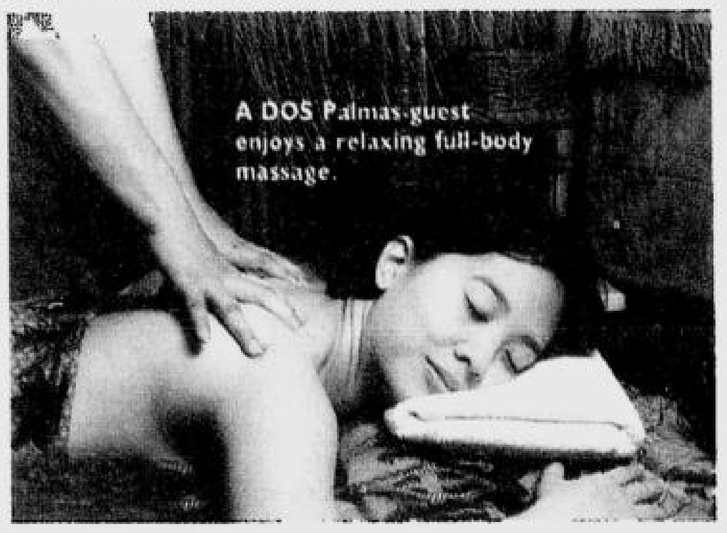
The invigorating treatments carefully selected to complement one's stay at Mandarin Oriental Manila include the following choices:

Swedish aromatic massage with steam bath; sports therapeutic massage, a combination of Chinese, Swedish and deep tissue techniques; Shiatsu acupressure massage, a traditional Japanese technique that involves the application of fingertip pressure to vital energy points of the body; aromatic salt glow that uses freshly ground aromatic sea salts to exfoliate the skin; royal foot spa or royal hand treatment (inclusive of steam bath) that include salt scrub and a manicure or pedicure involving a dip in melted warm wax paraffin.

Located atop the hotel, The Oriental Spa evokes elegant Thai style and luxury as reflected in its interiors and furnishings. Four stunning private suites—each with its own bath and steam facility complete The Oriental Spa's hushed and serene ambience.

Therapists who have been specially trained provide personalized treatments, to suit individual needs. The Oriental Spa uses the exclusive Thalgo line from France. It is operated by Sportathlon Philippines, which is under the management of the Spa of Siam.

Valid until the end of this year, the Spa Stay Package includes an overnight stay in a superior room complete with American breakfast, a welcome oriental drink, free pressing of one clothing, complimentary local calls, late checkout until 2 p.m. and a choice of one spa treatment.



A DOS Palmas guest enjoys a relaxing full-body massage.

Bali Spa and Wellness Center

The spa that has brought to town the legendary Javanese style of relaxation and beauty rituals also offers products that you can use for in-home pampering sessions.

Available at Bali Spa and Wellness Center are essential oils that come in a variety that include clove (good as anesthetic, antiseptic and general tonic for physical and intellectual weakness); patchouli for relaxation; lavender for calming; sandalwood for treating dry skin and relieving cystitis and infections; vetiver for relieving muscle tension; ylang-ylang for calming nerves and destressing; nutmeg for aiding the digestive system and stimulating circulation; and peppermint, the brain booster that also promotes relaxation.

Bali Spa also has the South Sea Mineral Salt Bath, which contains mineral salt and rosemary oil, that refreshes, eases muscle pains, prevents dizziness and promotes freshness.

For bathing, there are the bath gel of Javanese formula or scrubs such as cinnamon body scrub (rice powder extract, herbs and cinnamon) and Pandan Wangi body scrub (pandan wangi leaves and extract of rice-powder turmeric tumegiring). The Tea Tree oil, with its antiseptic and antiviral qualities, makes for good massage oil for the feet and legs.

The Bali Spa is located at 318 Interior Gallery Building, 318 Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas City. Call 800-3880/3816.

Tropical Spa

The reopened Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan offers a whole range of services to soothe the tired body and the battered mind through its brand-new Tropical Spa, the first complete spa facility in Palawan. Such as? Such as aromatherapy, slimming or Swedish full body; massage from the resort's trained therapists, aromatic facials, body scrubs (aptly called body smoothies), hair and scalp therapy, milk baths and foot spa treatments.

All these against a glorious backdrop of lush gardens and pristine blue waters, while you sip a long, cool drink and daydream the hours away.

Apart from such services, the Tropical Spa prides itself in using beauty and treatment products that are made only of 100-percent natural and fresh ingredients like aloe, cucumber, honey and oatmeal, and prepared just 5-10 minutes before the actual treatment. Furthermore, the cost of these treatments are 30-50 percent cheaper than those of other leading spas, with most services priced at P500 and below. Finally, all systems and procedures are patterned after those offered by world-class spas.

The full-service Tropical Spa is one of the main attractions of the newly renovated Dos Palmas resort. Located about an hour's boat ride away from the provincial capital of Puerto Princesa, Dos Palmas derived its name from the island's two 80-ft *buri* palms that tower over its coconut trees. The resort boasts of comfortable and modern amenities for tourists, including fully furnished bay cottages built on stilts over the island's surrounding waters, and garden cottages standing in the midst of more than 150 varieties of plants.

Apart from this, Dos Palmas offers a complete spectrum of recreational facilities, including a swimming pool with jacuzzi, a tennis court, a billiards den and a videoke bar, plus kayaks and snorkel gear for beach enthusiasts.

Enchanted Kingdom

APRIL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Our calendar of celebrations will keep you in the loop

On April 9, a Tuesday, it's Bataan Day. And to celebrate the occasion, we're giving all senior citizens the red carpet treatment. Simply present your Senior Citizen's I.D. upon entry and get free return tickets plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." Now that's an April celebration you'd be a fool to miss.

*All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

Park Schedule from March 20 to June 23: Wednesdays to Fridays, 2pm to 10pm; Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 10am to 10 pm with fireworks display at 9pm. • For inquiries, please call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati), 843-6073 to 78 (Sta. Rosa). Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. 03-081 Series of 2002

The healer in us all

By Cory Quirino

THERE lives in each of us a healer waiting to be discovered, waiting patiently to heal the self and, ultimately, the world. This is the mission of pranic healing, both the science and the art.

SR. Lydia Cabornay receives her award together with two senior pranic healers of the World Pranic Healing Foundation, Faith Sawey and Hermie Corcuera.

Master Choa Kok Sui, a Filipino of Chinese descent and chemical engineer by profession, was interested in yoga, mysticism and Chinese Ki Kung (the art of generating internal power) at a very young age. He spent more than 18 months studying the esoteric sciences while searching for alternative ways to ease human suffering.

Learning the secrets of healing from gurus and master healers, he founded the Institute for Inner Studies, through which he passes on to his students what he has learned. To date, there are more than 13,000 graduated pranic healers in the Philippines plus thousands more in Southeast Asia, Europe and the USA.

Ancient art

Pranic healing (PH), also called medical *qigong*, magnetic healing, laying of the hands or charismatic healing, is an ancient art. It utilizes *prana* or *ki* to heal the physical body. *Prana* or *ki* is the life energy that keeps the body alive and healthy. In Greek, it is known as *pneuma*; in Hebrew it is called *ruah*.

The human body is made up of the visible physical body and the invisible energy (bioplasmic) body. This energy body penetrates and extends 4-5 inches beyond the physical body. Clairvoyants who can see auras call this the etheric body or etheric double.

All human beings have what is called the power of the self, which can generate the energy from life. The process of pranic healing allows the "transfer" of the energy from any of several sources: solar (sun), ground (earth) and air (*prana*), to the person being healed. Thus, without the benefit of surgery or medication, the victim is healed, thereby earning the label miraculous healing.

Vehicle

I was a vehicle of sorts for the incredible healing of Carol (not her real name), an 18-year-old battling the last stages of lupus. Her mother, in a moment of desperation, asked me if I knew a healer because her "daughter needs help for the doctors have lost all hope of curing her." In short, she was on her deathbed. Immediately, I called the Pranic Healing Center and asked for a healer to drop by the hospital. They sent what I would consider a senior healer. She spent a total of 20 minutes with Carol, who was nearly comatose. The healer simply raised her hand 15 ft. away from the patient and proceeded to "sweep" and then "energize."

The very next morning, an exhausted but happy mother called me to give thanks. In less than 24 hours her daughter was pronounced out of danger.

A miracle?

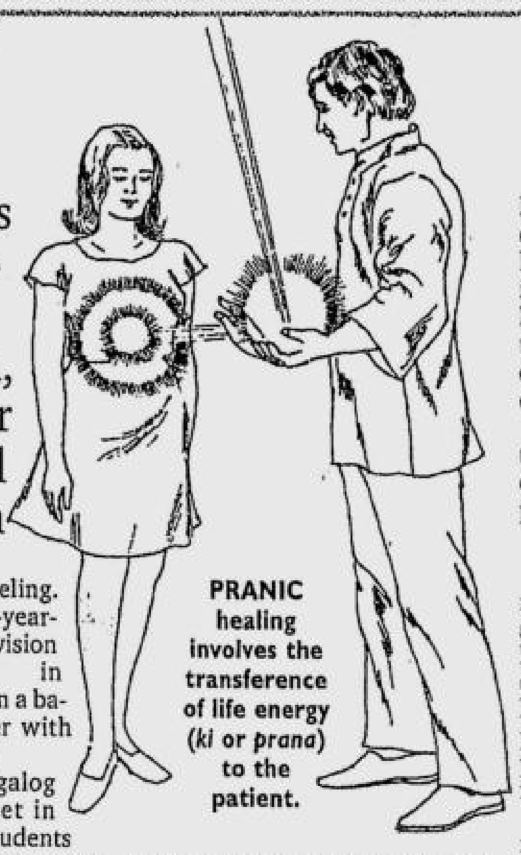
It is not the intention of PH to replace orthodox medicine, although its role is to enhance healing by complementing orthodox medicine. This is the reason more and more doctors are becoming pranic healers.

Dr. Marie Rose Yabut, an ob-gyn at Cardinal Santos Hospital, said PH has "facilitated my work as an obstetrician, giving me more confidence and composure on the operating table." She used a technique in visualization that "facilitated the difficult delivery of my patient Marivic Ocampo and her baby boy."

Sr. Lydia Cabornay, a 63-year-old nun from the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, recounted a campus ministry where a 19-year-old student complained of a headache. After a few minutes of simple healing, the student's headache was gone.

After three sessions with the nun, a 20-year-old student who was sexually molested at age 8 and had trouble dealing with spiritual and emotional pain, changed her attitude. The victim has since forgiven her uncle and has not resumed counseling.

Everyone has the power to tap energy from the sun, ground or air that can heal a sick person



PRANIC healing involves the transference of life energy (*ki* or *prana*) to the patient.

Flor S. Ravina, a 64-year-old assistant school division superintendent in Marinduque, enrolled in a basic PH course together with 150 teachers last year.

At the Southern Tagalog Regional Athletic Meet in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, 50 students who complained of various ailments, from headache to fever to diarrhea, underwent healing sessions with some teachers. All experienced relief within minutes to an hour after the session.

Gloria Romulo, a 57-year-old homemaker was advised by her optometrist, Dr. Pearl T. Villalon, that she would soon suffer from retinal detachment (deformity of vision) if her symptoms persisted. She was warned that once she experienced flashes of light the condition would have been confirmed. Believing in preventive healing, Gloria, after having graduated from PH, practiced self-healing through a powerful visualization technique. What prompted her to self-heal was the onset of the flashing lights. After one year of self-healing she underwent an eye exam. Her retina was intact.

So convinced she was about the power of self-healing that her entire family is now a family of pranic healers.

Intelligent cells

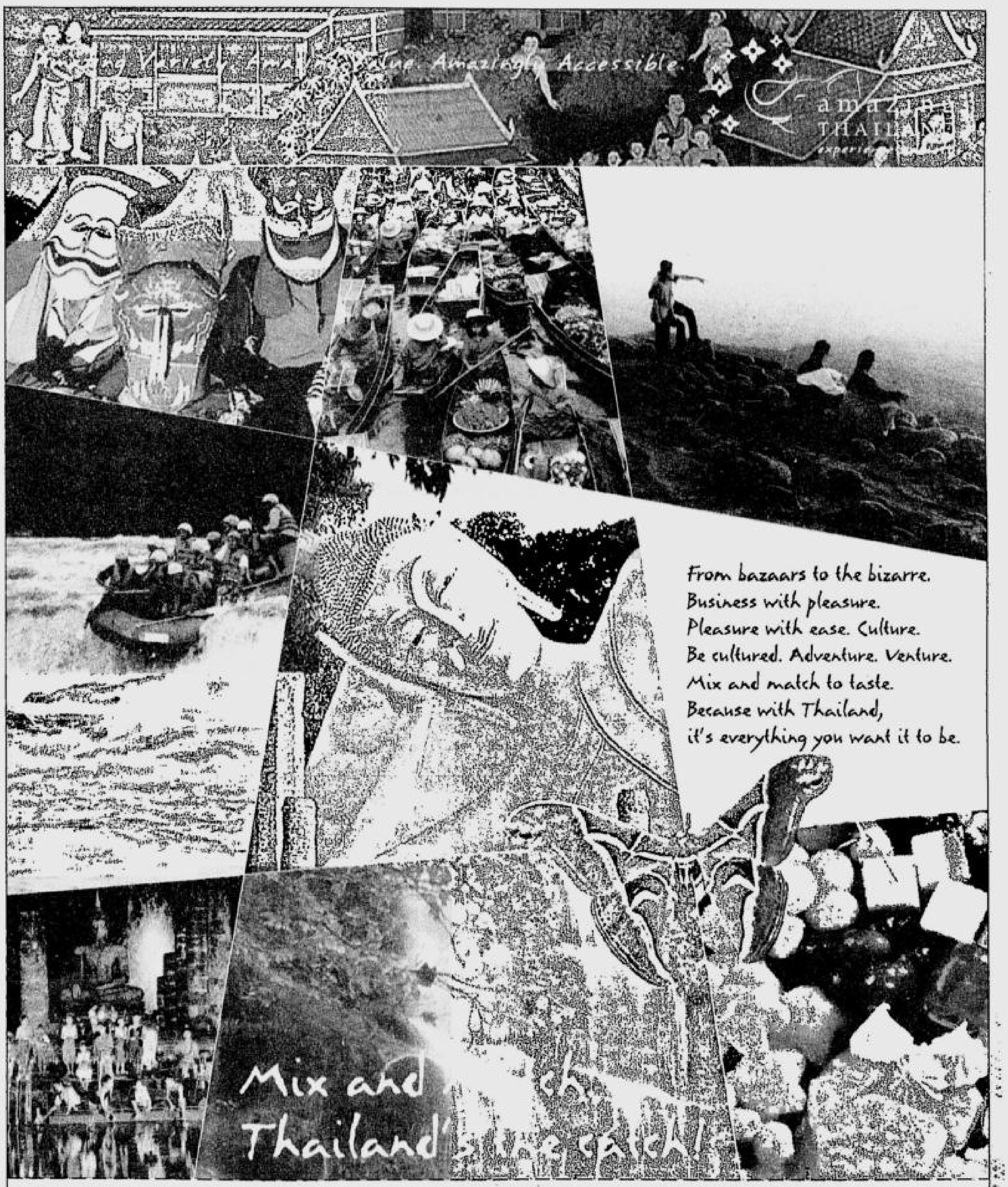
If Dr. Deepak Chopra, renowned guru and author of best-selling books on antiaging and healing, believed that human cells have an intelligence that will listen when talked to and react positively when programmed properly, then healing the self makes a whole lot of good sense.

It is said that the power of the mind to create is just as potent as the power to destroy. Tapping the positive forces all humans are imbued with merely challenges us all to create.

Imagine then a world of healers. What a new mankind we could create. Imagine a whole new world.

ENGINEER John and Marivic Ocampo with Dr. Rose Marie Yabut, medical director and pranic healer who helped the couple deliver a healthy pranic baby

THE FAMILY of lawyer Nestor and Gloria Romulo received the Healing Angel award in October 2001.



Amazingly Accessible.
amazing THAILAND experience
Mix and match. Thailand's the catch!

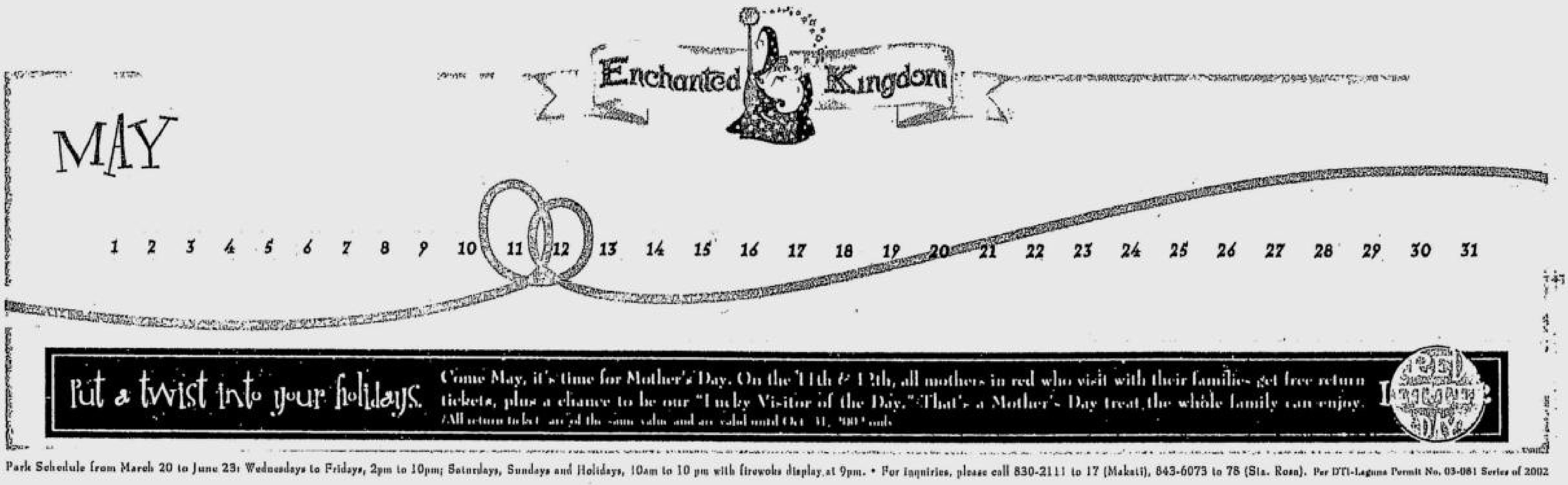
From bazaars to the bizarre.
Business with pleasure.
Pleasure with ease. Culture.
Be cultured. Adventure. Venture.
Mix and match to taste.
Because with Thailand,
it's everything you want it to be.

For a FREE brochure, fill in and mail this coupon to: **Tourism Authority of Thailand**,
c/o Thai Airways International Public Co Ltd, Country Space 1 Bldg, Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines.

Name__________ Age______
Address__________
Telephone__________ Destinations interested in__________

www.tat.or.th

Philippines Daily Inquirer



Put a twist into your holidays. Come May, it's time for Mother's Day. On the 11th & 12th, all mothers in red who visit with their families get free return tickets, plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." That's a Mother's Day treat the whole family can enjoy.
All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only

Park Schedule from March 20 to June 23: Wednesdays to Fridays, 2pm to 10pm; Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 10am to 10 pm with fireworks display at 9pm. • For inquiries, please call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati), 843-6073 to 78 (Sta. Rosa). Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. 03-081 Series of 2002

Shedding more light on the causes of a sudden death

By Alex Y. Vergara

IT wouldn't have made any difference had the late Rico Yan taken Ecstasy pills before going to bed in the wee hours of Good Friday. His reputation for snoring like a steam engine, as some friends say, had probably nothing to do with his death either.

Almost a week after Rico had been laid to rest, the young actor and the circumstances behind his sudden death continue to spice conversations among show biz-obsessed Filipinos. Hemorrhagic pancreatitis, more popularly known as *bangungot*, has suddenly assumed a life of its own, giving many a man reason to pause before raiding the dinner buffet or romping off on a Saturday night drinking spree.

Such fears, says Dr. John Arnel Pangilinan of St. Luke's Hospital, are understandable but often unwarranted. There's also no conclusive evidence linking *bangungot* to salty or rice diets. The gastroenterologist, who is not speaking for the Yan family and has no connection with them whatsoever, also brushes aside nasty talk that dangerous drugs had triggered Rico's death.

"If we're to base it on official autopsy reports," says Pangilinan, "Rico died from cardiac arrest resulting from acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis. Some drugs cause chronic pancreatitis, but Ecstasy isn't one of them."

In fact, adds Pangilinan, only 15-20 percent of cases involving pancreatitis become hemorrhagic. The condition has thus been changed to "necrotizing" (from the word "necrosis" or, literally, rotting) pancreatitis to differentiate it from the milder form of inflammatory pancreatitis.

DR. John Arnel Pangilinan explains the "what ifs" surrounding actor Rico Yan's death. ROGER CARPIO

Common among men

"Alcohol, not food, is a toxin that directly affects the pancreas," he says. "If you're a chronic alcohol drinker, you've set the stage for developing inflammatory pancreatitis in the future. But instances wherein one develops acute or necrotizing pancreatitis after an alcohol binge are very rare." Rico, of course, is one such example.

> 'Bangungot' has suddenly assumed a life of its own, giving many a man reason to pause before raiding the dinner buffet or romping off on a Saturday night drinking spree

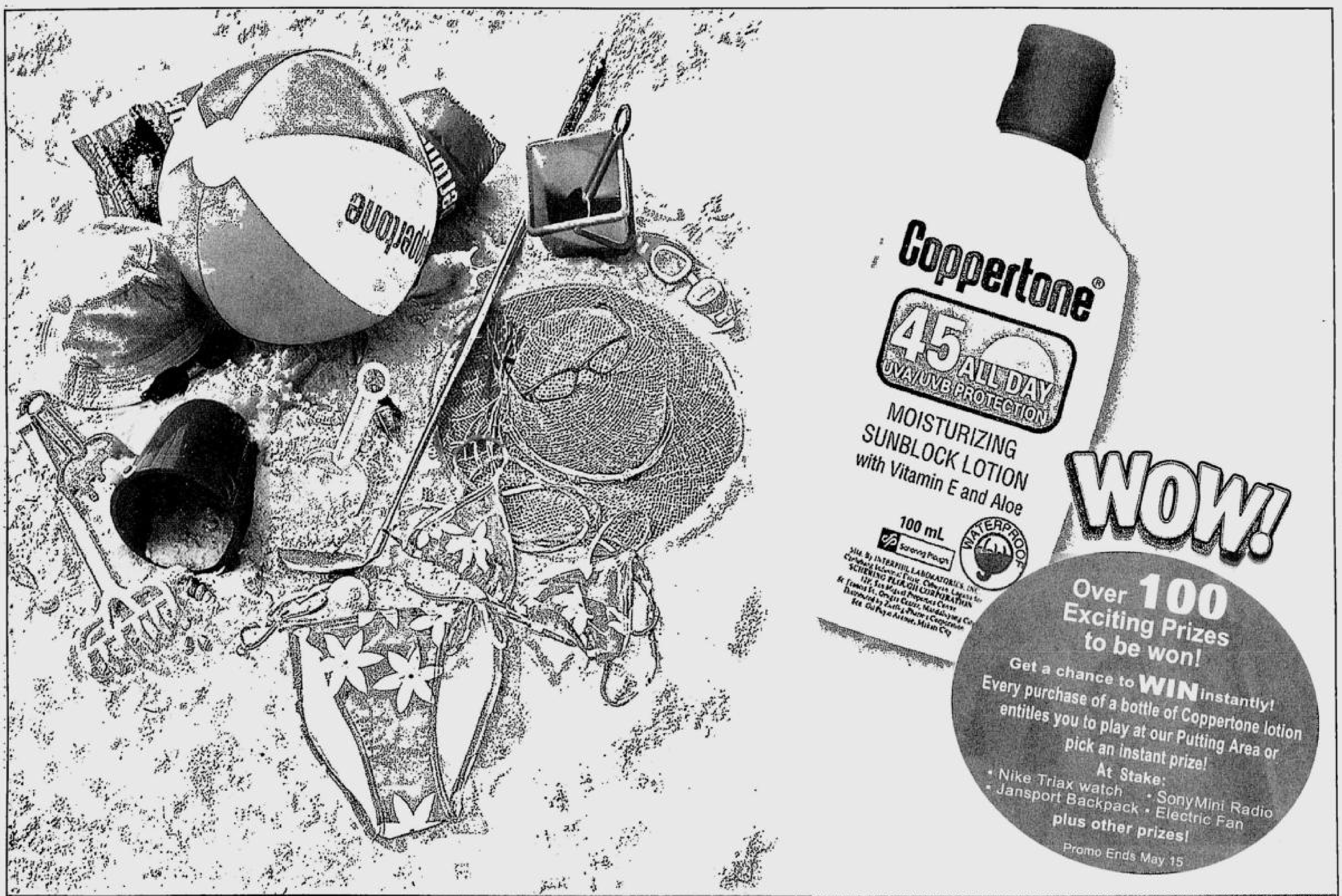
"I would assume that the combination of *pulutan* and alcohol did him in," he adds. "Rico was just *malas* [unlucky]. Many people survive after going to sleep drunk or with a full stomach."

It's wise, however, to refrain from going to bed soon after eating a heavy meal. "Whenever we eat, the body's systems are also on the go," he explains. "Imagine if you sleep immediately after eating a full meal. The digestive system will work overtime to digest the food, while the rest of the body's systems go down. You're liable to get indigestion."

Cases of alcohol-induced pancreatitis are more common among men. Not a few people who develop mild forms of pancreatitis live to tell about the experience. Pangilinan and his colleagues usually give them antibiotics and medicines that inhibit the organ from secreting enzymes. They also require patients to go on intravenous nutrition (dextrose) for some time to give their pancreas a rest. Surgery may be necessary in some cases where the pancreas has already necrosed.

"We sometimes recommend an operation to remove debris in the

SHEDDING/ p.C3


Coppertone
Coppertone®
45 ALL DAY UVA/UVB PROTECTION
MOISTURIZING SUNBLOCK LOTION with Vitamin E and Aloe
100 mL
WATERPROOF
WOW!

Over 100 Exciting Prizes to be won!
Get a chance to WIN instantly!
Every purchase of a bottle of Coppertone lotion entitles you to play at our Putting Area or pick an instant prize!
At Stake:
• Nike Triax watch • SonyMini Radio
• Jansport Backpack • Electric Fan
plus other prizes!
Promo Ends May 15

PLAY. SAFE.

Run, play, swim, snorkel, sunbathe. Do everything that's fun. Coppertone gives you the widest range of protection under the sun.

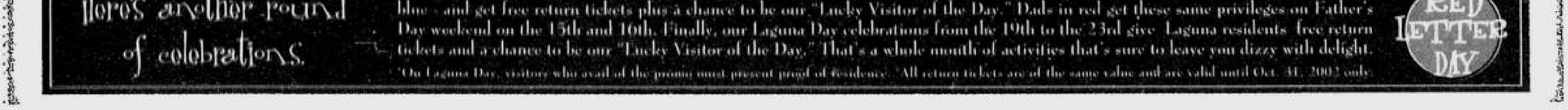
Also available in SUNTAN, SUNBLOCK, SPORT DRY, WATERBABIES AND KIDS SUNBLOCK LOTION.

Schering-Plough Corporation A Leader In Alergy And Dermatology

Coppertone
Block the sun. Not the fun.

Watsons
SM City Annex • SM Centerpoint • SM Mega A • SM Southmall • SM City Fairview • SM City Bacoor • SM City Iloilo • SM City Cebu • SM City Pampanga • SM City Manila • Festival Supermall • SM Supercenter • SM City Davao • All SM Department Stores

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.0212 Series of 2002



Here's another round of celebrations.

A flood of celebrations await you in June, starting with Independence Day on the 12th. Wear our nation's proud colors - red, white and blue - and get free return tickets plus a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." Dads in red get these same privileges on Father's Day weekend on the 15th and 16th. Finally, our Laguna Day celebrations from the 19th to the 23rd give Laguna residents free return tickets and a chance to be our "Lucky Visitor of the Day." That's a whole month of activities that's sure to leave you dizzy with delight.

On Laguna Day, visitors who avail of the promo must present proof of residence. All return tickets are of the same value and are valid until Oct. 31, 2002 only.

RED LETTER DAY

Park Schedule from March 20 to June 23: Wednesdays to Fridays, 2pm to 10pm; Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, 10am to 10 pm with firewoks display at 9pm. • For inquiries, please call 830-2111 to 17 (Makati), 843-6073 to 78 (Sta. Rosa). Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. 03-081 Series of 2002

LIFESTYLE Fitness

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Pamper yourself with pineapple and papaya

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE BOUNTY of nature's harvest is evident in summer more than any other season. Thus, you can have your pick of the best fruits available. But did you ever wonder what uses fruits have other than for sustenance?

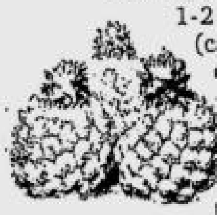
Apart from the usual desserts or drinks, fruits contain enzymes that have youth- and beauty-enhancing potentials. Instead of discarding the extra slices of fruit on your plate, turn them into facial masks and skin preparation.

You may eat fruit or you may apply it, which one is it going to be? My suggestion is, while you are munching on your favorite fruit, you can use it on your face or body!

For sun-damaged skin, try this: Crush half of a fresh, ripe pineapple. Avoiding the eye area, apply the crushed fruit to the damaged area. Leave on for 10 minutes. Rinse with chilled water.

Cool off your insides and fight free radical damage to your cells with a doze of pineapple juice. Not only is it refreshing, it's got phytochemical properties that boost our body's immune system.

Pineapple Quencher



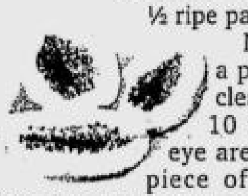
1-2 c pineapple chunks (canned or fresh) or get the canned pineapple juice with pulp
1 c crushed ice
1 tsp honey
1 tsp nonfat milk (optional)

In a blender, mix the ingredients until foamy. Strain the pulp (if fresh fruit was used). Drink chilled. Or, extract the juice from a juicer, then mix in a blender.

As skin exfoliant and soother, papaya is ideal. There are two ways to enjoy this tropical fruit. For a papaya salad, chop half a papaya in chunks and mix with the juice of one calamansi. Eat all you can.

Papaya Poultice

½ ripe papaya (chilled)



Mash the papaya into a pulp. Apply on a dry, clean face. Leave on for 10 minutes. Avoid the eye area. You may apply a piece of cotton dipped in chilled water to your eyes.

I can never over-emphasize the need to detoxify. Papaya has enzymes that are good for your insides as well as your "outside." You can never over-doze on fruits, so make them a necessary part of your diet.

While we are focused on our physical wellness and attractiveness, there is the matter of our peace of mind that bears attending to.

The disquiet that causes us all pressure is stress and there are countless ways to combat this just as there are many solutions to a problem. Here is one of them and it's probably the simplest of them all.

Nature sounds

Research has shown that the sound of nature has the power to lull the senses into a state of calm. If you have no time to step into a park or sit by the seashore or mountain ridge, go to any popular music store and get yourself a copy of music for meditation with nature sounds. Just 10 minutes of listening time is right to begin and end your day peacefully. And while you are listening, close your eyes, imagine you are there—hearing nature's healing calls—the sounds of surf, rain, chirping, rustling of leaves... Repeat to yourself "I am at peace. I am peace."

Together

There is nothing more assuring than the knowledge that you are in control of your moods—especially your sense of equanimity. Keeping yourself "together" may be a sync for some but quite a challenge to others.

Being "together" means that you know yourself well with the underlying truth that you are in sync with yourself. What better way to start than now.

Love and light!

PROMO EXTENDED! ON ALL SKIN TREATMENTS PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS!

CARLO MUÑOZ
Commercial Model/
Actor

- Dark Spots • Pigmentation
- Acne / Pimples Marks
- Post Pregnancy Marks
- Skin Whitening & Peeling

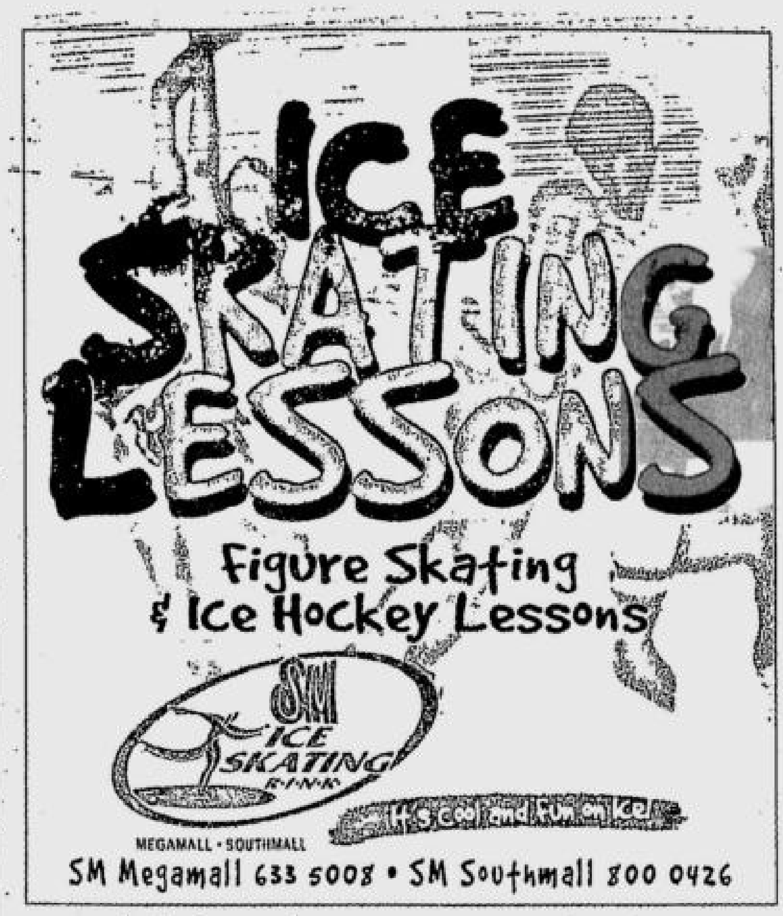
Other Services:
- Pimple/Acne Treatment
- Warts Removal
- French Technique Faciale

dermé'c total'le
Paris, France
Skin and Body Care Center

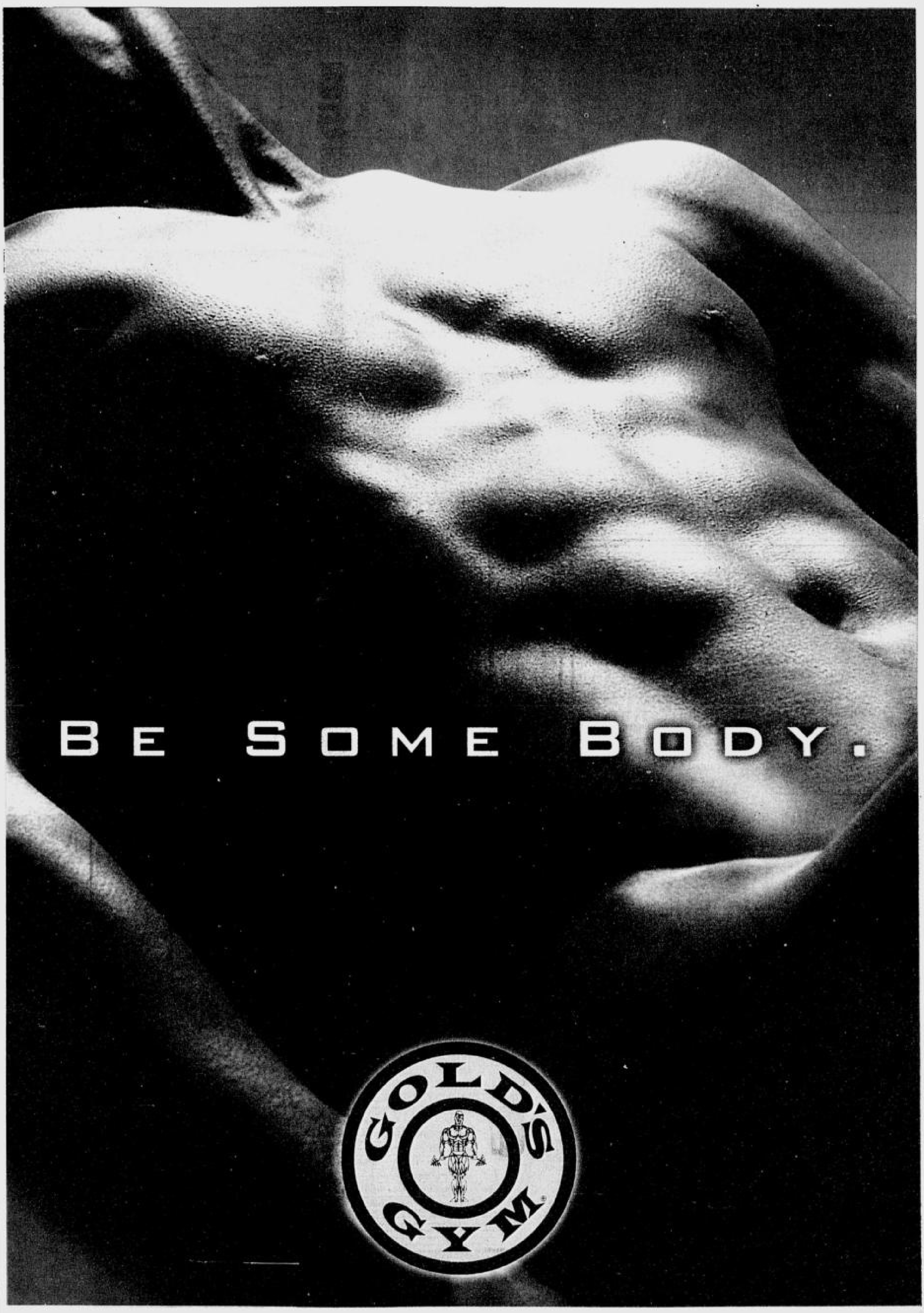
MAKATI BRANCH
12 D Century Plaza Cond., Perea St., Legaspi Village
QUEZON CITY BRANCH
Suit 315 Pasda Mansion,Panay Ave., cor Timog Ave.

LEANDRO MUÑOZ
Actor / Commercial Model

For more details please call: 812-7901 / 812-8044 / 373-0814



SM Megamall 633 5008 • SM Southmall 800 0426



INTEREST FOR THIS BODY.

Work-out at Gold's Gym at zero interest on your credit card.

Just avail of the Gold Single membership plan on a three-month installment term.

And pay P18,000 enrollment fee with P2,488 monthly fee using your BPI, Citibank, Equitable or Unicard credit card.

Sign up now and get an exciting gift! Promo runs on April 8 - 30, 2002.

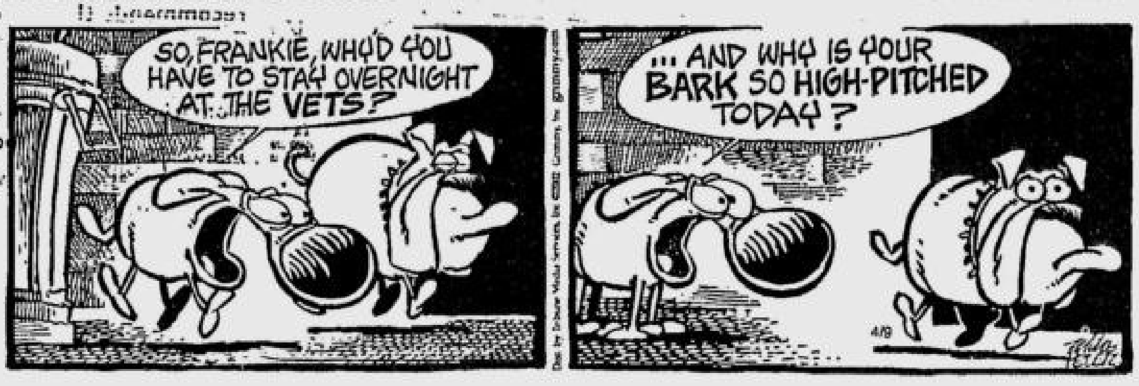
Gold's Gym, Ground, 2nd and 3rd Floors, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City 752-8081 www.goldsgymmanila.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-204 Series of 2002.

DAYS HOTEL
World's Largest and Fastest Growing Hotel Chain
Php 950 NET / PERSON
(QUADRUPLE SHARING)
FOR LIVE-IN SEMINAR
(MINIMUM OF 20 PAX)
TAGAYTAY / BATANGAS / PAMPANGA / CEBU
INCLUSION:
OVERNIGHT STAY
FULL-BOARD MEAL (PLATED)
FREE USE OF FUNCTION ROOM
FREE FLOWING HOT COFFEE / TEA
* SUBJECT TO ROOM AVAILABILITY
* PROMO VALIDITY: FEB 1 TO APRIL 30, 2002
SALES DEPARTMENT
Sunette Tower, Durban St. Cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. No.: 897-2004 to 07 / 897-1111 Fax : 895-8805
DAYS HOTEL TAGAYTAY
Tel. No.: 843-6813 / (046) 413-2400
Fax No.: (046) 413-2410
DAYS HOTEL BATANGAS
Tel. No.: (043) 980-7321/980-8499/
980-2888/300-7436-38
Fax No.: (043) 980-8338
DAYS HOTEL PAMPANGA
Tel. No.: 843-6478/(045) 963-5440-47
Fax No.: (045) 963-5440
DAYS HOTEL CEBU
Tel. No.: (032) 340-7890/341-0476-77
495-5381,82,83,86
Fax No.: (032) 341-0476
http://www.dayshotel.ph

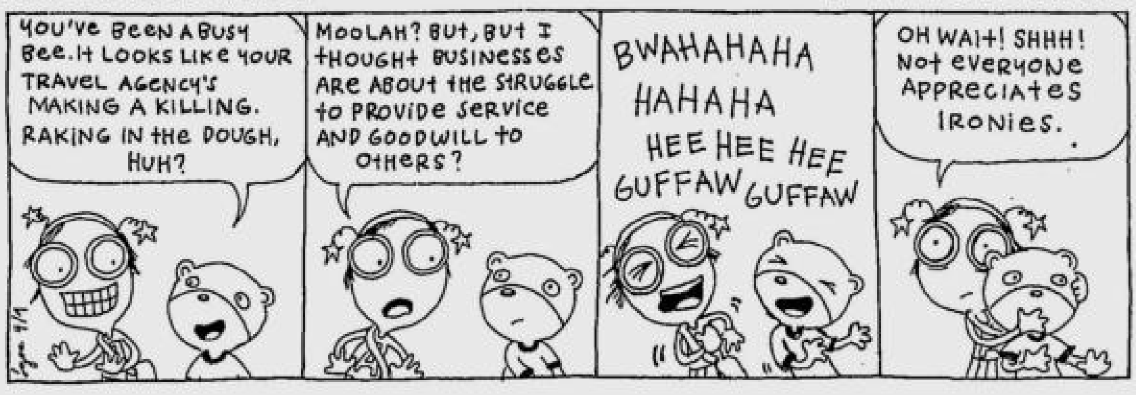
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SO, FRANKIE, WHY'D YOU HAVE TO STAY OVERNIGHT AT THE VETS?
... AND WHY IS YOUR BARK SO HIGH-PITCHED TODAY?
4/9

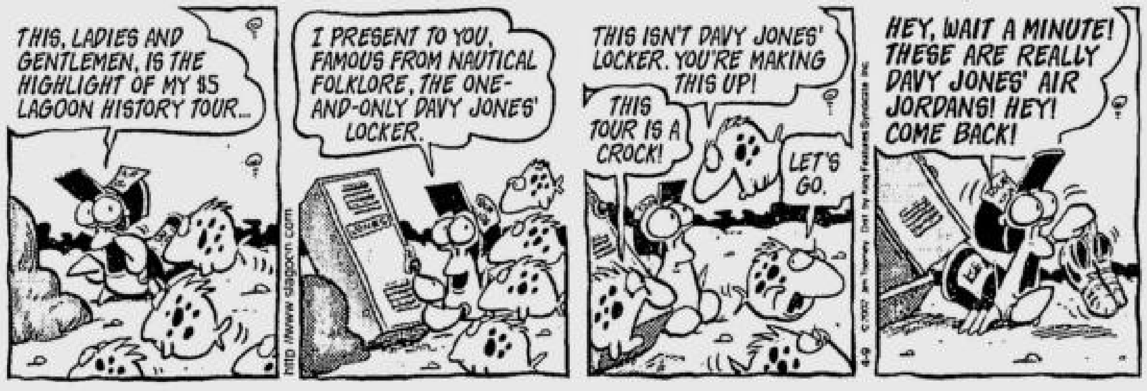
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU'VE BEEN A BUSY BEE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR TRAVEL AGENCY'S MAKING A KILLING. RAKING IN THE DOUGH, HUH?
MOOLAH? BUT, BUT I THOUGHT BUSINESSES ARE ABOUT THE STRUGGLE TO PROVIDE SERVICE AND GOODWILL TO OTHERS?
BWAHAHAHA HAHAHA HEE HEE HEE GUFFAW GUFFAW
OH WAIT! SHHH! NOT EVERYONE APPRECIATES IRONIES.

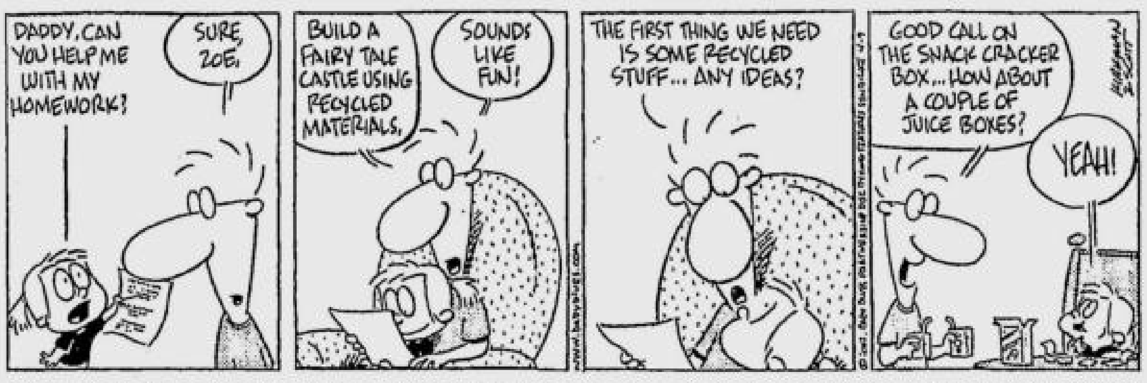
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY $5 LAGOON HISTORY TOUR...
I PRESENT TO YOU, FAMOUS FROM NAUTICAL FOLKLORE, THE ONE-AND-ONLY DAVY JONES' LOCKER.
THIS ISN'T DAVY JONES' LOCKER. YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP!
THIS TOUR IS A CROCK!
LET'S GO.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! THESE ARE REALLY DAVY JONES' AIR JORDANS! HEY! COME BACK!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, CAN YOU HELP ME WITH MY HOMEWORK?
SURE, ZOE.
BUILD A FAIRY TALE CASTLE USING RECYCLED MATERIALS.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
THE FIRST THING WE NEED IS SOME RECYCLED STUFF... ANY IDEAS?
GOOD CALL ON THE SNACK CRACKER BOX... HOW ABOUT A COUPLE OF JUICE BOXES?
YEAH!
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hugh Hefner, Dennis Quaid, Keshia Knight Pulliam

Happy Birthday: Your aptitude to intuitively understand your friends and family will help you form solid unions this year. You will be attracted to creative groups that can offer you the inspiration you need to develop your own talents. You will be intent on finding perfect harmony in your life. Your numbers are 3, 16, 17, 22, 28, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your home for meetings or for a friendly get together. Be accommodating but don't tell anyone about your secrets. Someone you are dealing with may not be trustworthy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you get out and mingle with people who have similar interests. Your contribution to any group you join will bring you popularity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't push your luck at work. Focus on what it is you need to accomplish and avoid interaction . You would be wise to avoid discussions concerning emotional matters.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be drawn to someone who appears to be most dedicated to the philosophy that he follows.The more you can delve into different backgrounds, the more you will understand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be looking into investments, however, don't be too quick to borrow money in order to take part. If you can't afford to put money into something you probably shouldn't.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be charismatic, engaging and will attract a lot of attention today. The more you interact with others the better you'll do. Your confidence should get a boost that should enable you to move ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can get the most done if you work alongside your colleagues or peers. Your unique way of doing things will bring inspiration to those watching you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be looking for something a little different to occupy your time. Social events will promote romance or at the very least strong friendships. You will learn from those you encounter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Secret involvements are likely to backfire on you. Changes to your living arrangements will turn out better than you thought possible. Be prepared to tighten your belt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time to make the effort to rectify any problems you've been having with others. Get together with old friends or relatives and reflect on days gone by in order to appreciate all that you have.

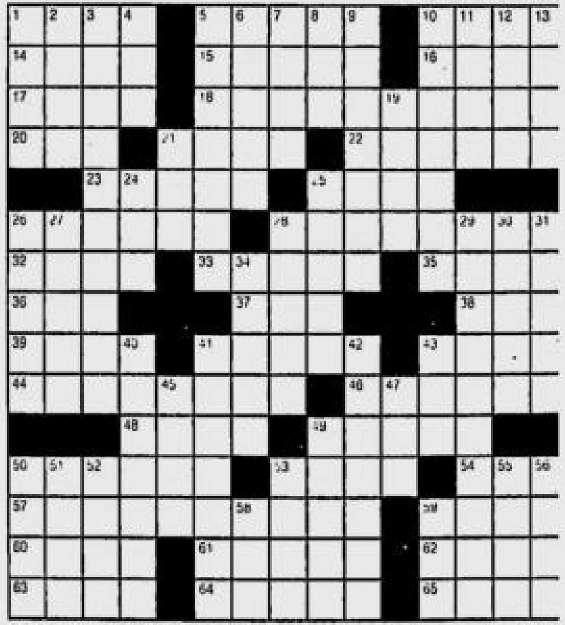
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your achievements regarding your professional and financial situation are looking good. Your long hard journey to do and to be the best you can should be paying off by now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotions may be a little frail today but if you concentrate on creative projects you will find that your day can be filled with positive results. Be receptive to those offering sound advice and wisdom.

Birthday Baby: You will need to be allowed the freedom to come and go as you please. Your beliefs will play an important role in your life. You will have a well-developed intuition that will guide you through any difficulties that you encounter.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16
17 18 19
20 21 22
23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31
32 33 34 35
36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43
44 45 46 47
48 49
50 51 52 53 54 55 56
57 58 59
60 61 62
63 64 65

By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

4/9/0

ACROSS

1 Prominence
5 Engulf
10 Singer Lane
14 English river
15 Van Gogh location
16 __ of Gilead
17 Citrus fruit
18 Dogpatch matriarch
20 Brief commercials
21 Mugs and goblets
22 Salad leafstalk
23 Three-time Indy winner Rick
25 Siamese
26 Type of daisy
28 Printing plant worker
32 Hamlet's first choice
33 Man and Dogs
35 Freight jumper
36 OPEC product
37 Solo of "Star Wars"
38 "Hallowed be __ name..."
39 On the briny
41 Football kicks
43 Loafer or pump
44 Beauty parlor employees
46 Bigots
48 Gray and Candler
49 Less common
50 Without principles
53 Support
54 Actress Myrna
57 Woman's career option
59 Equestrian game
60 Sailor's direction
61 Art supporter
62 Small whirlpool
63 Bovine bunch
64 Actress Della
65 Mexican money

DOWN

1 Roosevelt's dog
2 Eager
3 Old-time comedienne
4 Wind dir.
5 Japanese warrior
6 Envelops
7 Charity
8 Hebrew letter
9 Spirits
10 Put an end to
11 Oven setting
12 Obscure
13 TV award
19 Affirmative votes
21 Grimalkin
24 Linguistic suffix
25 City on the Adige
26 Greek colonnades
27 Lift
28 Blueprints
29 Bonanza
30 Detest
31 "The Highwayman" poet
34 Closes
40 Frightened
41 Church book
42 Fetter
43 Sault __ Marie
45 Brit's indignant comment
47 Biblical boat
49 Tries to outrun
50 Nanking nanny
51 Sleeper spy
52 Hebrew weight
53 Army post
55 GM make, for short
56 Spinning toy on a string
58 Actress Charlotte
59 Get-up-and-go

Monday's Puzzle Solved

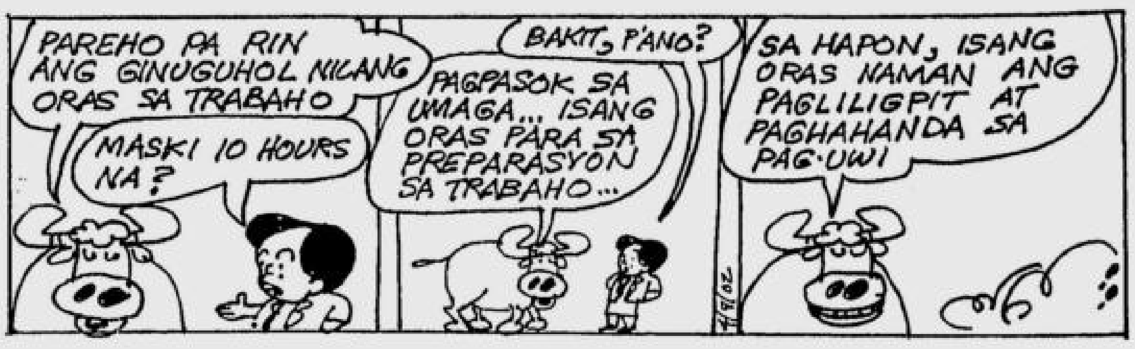
S	E	G	A	L	■	O	H	N	O	■	M	A	S	K
I	R	A	Q	I	■	M	O	A	T	■	O	G	E	E
C	A	M	U	S	■	A	L	P	H	A	M	A	L	E
■	■	M	I	T	E	R	S	■	E	L	E	V	E	N
S	C	A	L	E	D	■	T	A	L	L	N	E	S	S
C	O	R	I	N	N	A	■	S	L	O	T	■	■	■
O	M	A	N	■	A	N	Y	H	O	W	■	D	I	G
R	A	Y	E	D	■	D	A	R	■	S	M	E	L	L
E	S	S	■	A	I	R	M	A	N	■	O	L	L	A
■	■	■	A	C	M	E	■	M	O	U	N	T	E	D
C	E	C	R	O	P	I	A	■	E	L	G	A	R	S
A	L	I	C	I	A	■	S	A	L	L	O	W	■	■
B	E	T	A	T	R	O	N	S	■	A	L	I	A	S
A	G	E	D	■	T	R	E	E	■	G	I	N	O	S
L	Y	R	E	■	S	E	R	A	■	E	A	G	L	E

(C)2002 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.

4/9/0

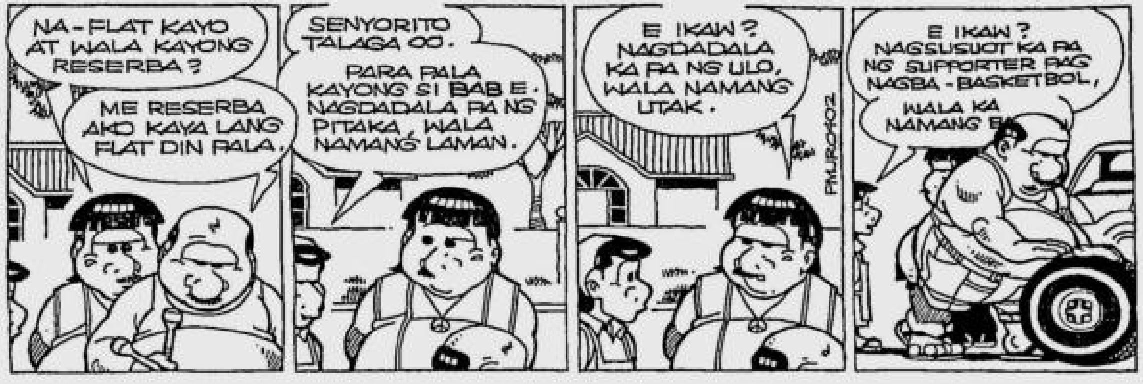
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAREHO PA RIN ANG GINUGUHOL NILANG ORAS SA TRABAHO
MASKI 10 HOURS NA?
BAKIT, P'ANO?
PAGPASOK SA UMAGA... ISANG ORAS PARA SA PREPARASYON SA TRABAHO...
SA HAPON, ISANG ORAS NAMAN ANG PAGLILIGPIT AT PAGHAHANDA SA PAG-UWI
4/9/02

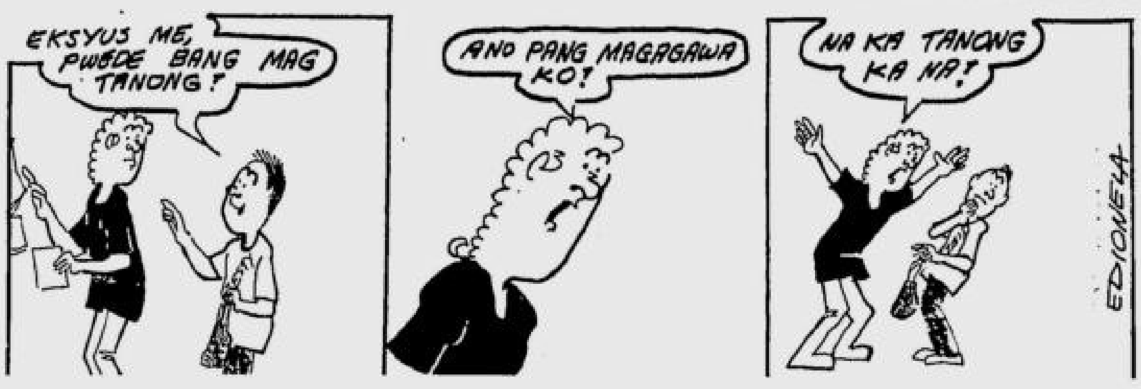
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NA-FLAT KAYO AT WALA KAYONG RESERBA?
ME RESERBA AKO KAYA LANG FLAT DIN PALA.
SENYORITO TALAGA OO.
PARA PALA KAYONG SI BABE. NAGDADALA PA NG PITAKA, WALA NAMANG LAMAN.
E IKAW? NAGDADALA KA PA NG ULO, WALA NAMANG UTAK.
E IKAW? NAGSUSUOT KA PA NG SUPPORTER PAG NAGBA-BASKETBOL,
WALA KA NAMANG B

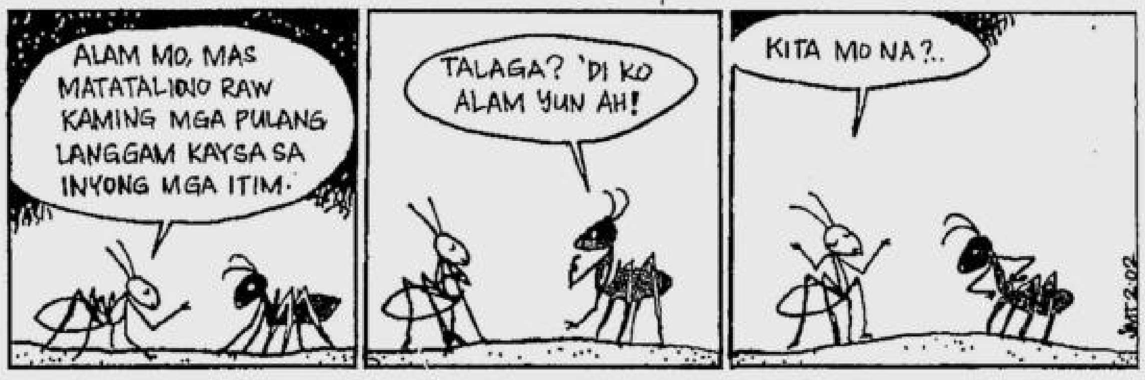
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


EKSYUS ME, PWEDE BANG MAG TANONG?
ANO PANG MAGAGAWA KO!
NA KA TANONG KA NA!
EDIONELA

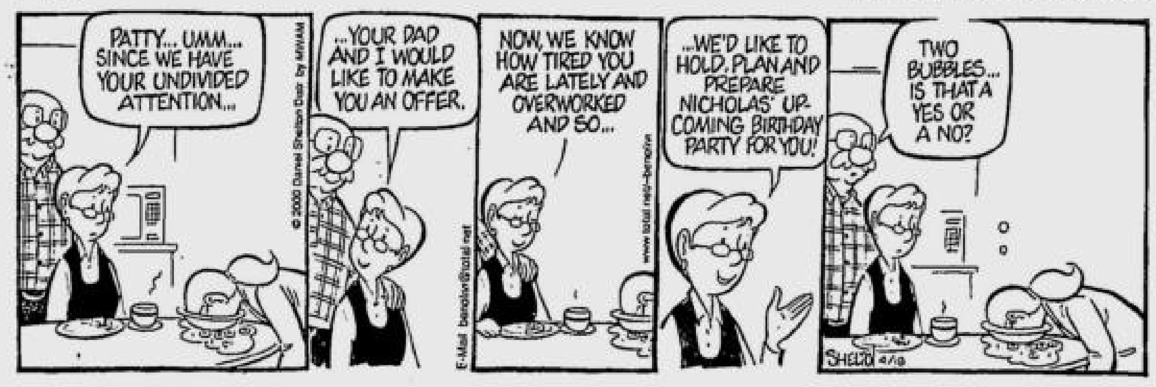
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM MO, MAS MATATALINO RAW KAMING MGA PULANG LANGGAM KAYSA SA INYONG MGA ITIM.
TALAGA? 'DI KO ALAM YUN AH!
KITA MO NA?..

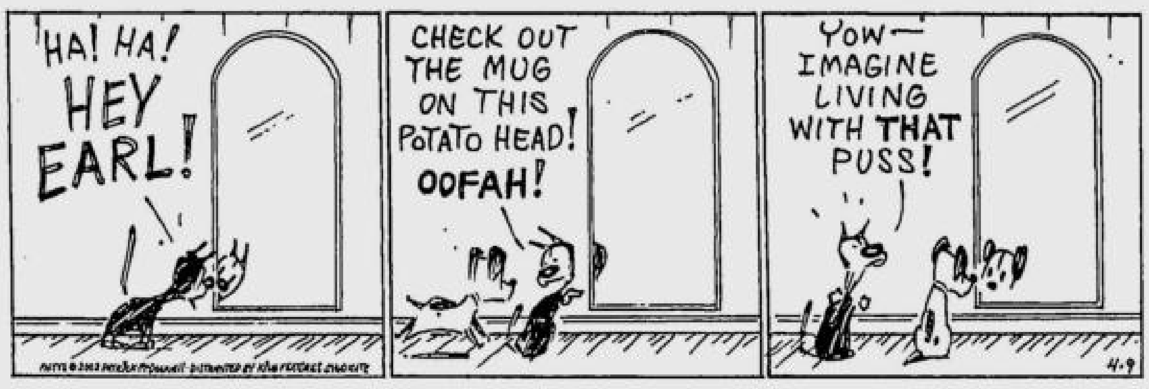
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PATTY... UMM... SINCE WE HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION...
...YOUR DAD AND I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER.
NOW, WE KNOW HOW TIRED YOU ARE LATELY AND OVERWORKED AND SO...
...WE'D LIKE TO HOLD, PLAN AND PREPARE NICHOLAS' UP-COMING BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR YOU!
TWO BUBBLES... IS THAT A YES OR A NO?
SHELTON 4/10

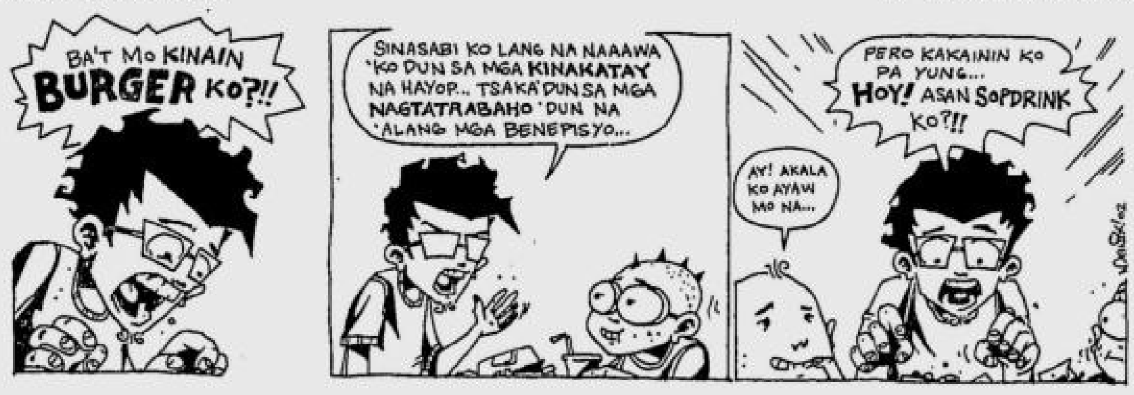
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HA! HA! HEY EARL!
CHECK OUT THE MUG ON THIS POTATO HEAD!
OOFAH!
YOW— IMAGINE LIVING WITH THAT PUSS!
4-9

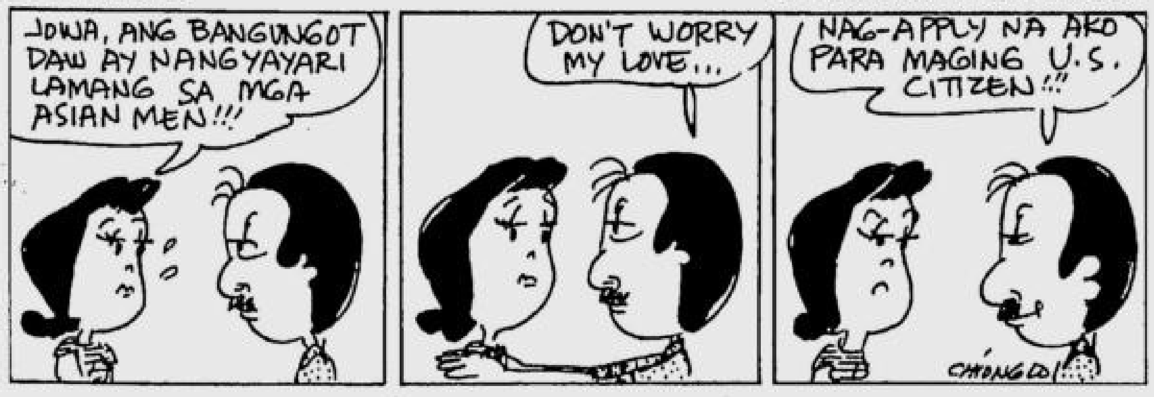
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


BA'T MO KINAIN BURGER KO?!!
SINASABI KO LANG NA NAAAWA 'KO DUN SA MGA KINAKATAY NA HAYOP.. TSAKA DUN SA MGA NAGTATRABAHO 'DUN NA 'ALANG MGA BENEPISYO...
AY! AKALA KO AYAW MO NA...
PERO KAKAININ KO PA YUNG... HOY! ASAN SOPDRINK KO?!!

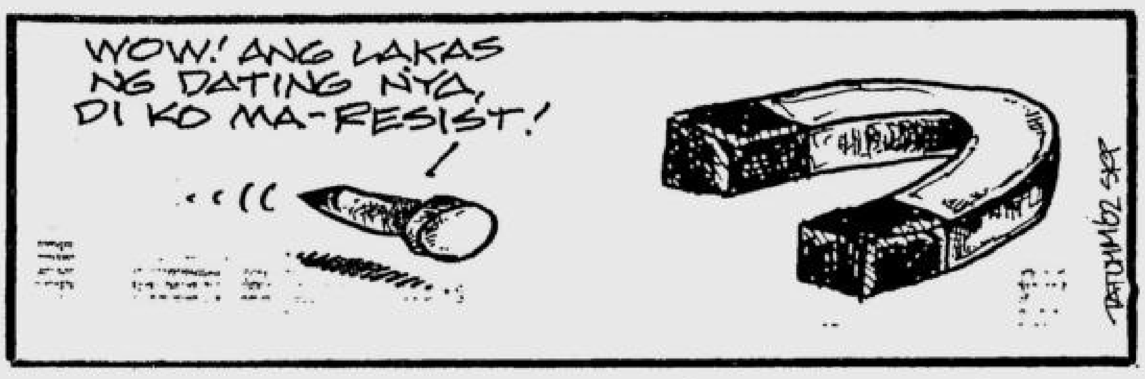
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, ANG BANGUNGOT DAW AY NANGYAYARI LAMANG SA MGA ASIAN MEN!!!
DON'T WORRY MY LOVE...
NAG-APPLY NA AKO PARA MAGING U.S. CITIZEN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW! ANG LAKAS NG DATING NYA, DI KO MA-RESIST!
TATUM/02

Autism seminar for parents and professionals

WEEKLY DOSAGE

A SEMINAR on autism titled, "Understanding Autism... A Guide for Parents and Professionals," will be held from April 13 to May 11, Saturdays, 1-7 p.m., at the Asian Social Institute, Leon Guinto, Manila.

Seminar fee is P3,500. A reservation fee of P500 will be deductible from the seminar fee. Those interested to join may pay at any BPI Family Bank. Account number will be given upon confirmation. The seminar fee is nonrefundable.

Only those with reservations will be notified of any changes in schedule or venue.

Topics include: Autism Defined, Screening and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Alternatives to Behaviorism, Teaching and Learning Styles in Autism, Case Analysis, Course Application and Presentation, and up-to-date information about autism.

Call St. Dymphna SpEd Consultancy Center at 253-6236 or fax 233-3645.

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP. The KI Association Int'l. (KIAI) Inc. will hold "Physio-Mental Unity: A Holistic Approach to Stress Management" on May 4, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Symmetry Int'l. Training Hall, 2/F First Midland Condominium, Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. The workshop will be conducted by Ernesto Talag, KIAI founder and chief instructor. Call 892-9887, (0917) 793-9480 or (0919) 670-9626.

FREE RECTAL EXAMINATION. Healthway Medical Clinics in Binondo offers a free digital rectal examination and consultation with a urologist every Tuesday and Saturday of April, 3-5 p.m. Visit Healthway Medical Clinics at 2/F Paramount Building, Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila. Call 241-2246/2066.

Frisomel
Follow-On Milk

PRIMA ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde with kids Missy and Mac-Mac during a photo session at the GlaxoSmithKline Phils. (GSK) office in Makati. The Elizalde kids are endorsers of Frisomel, GSK's premium brand of powdered milk for growing children 6 months onward. Frisomel contains alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), a US Food and Drugs Administration recommended pediatric nutrition. ALA helps children get the optimum amount of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) for proper brain and body development.

CM Star Direct Sales recommends the use of aromatherapy products such as Westwood Body Lotions, Colognes and Soaps. Aromatherapy products contain natural extracts derived from plants. Their nourishing benefits are combined with natural aromatics that have a pleasing effect on your mental, emotional and spiritual being. Call CM Star head office at 913-9066 and 912-5667, or visit 86 Ninth Ave., Cubao, QC.

Anchor
Ovaltine
Anchor
Ovaltine
Anchor
Ovaltine
Ovaltine

ANCHOR Full Cream Milk and Mercury Drug are offering a special promo for the drugstore's loyal patrons. Customers may avail of free Ovaltine sachets when they purchase any size of Anchor Full Cream Milk. A 180-g Anchor Full Cream Milk comes with one free Ovaltine,sachet; 450 g with two free Ovaltine sachets; and 800 g with three free Ovaltine sachets. Available at Mercury Drug outlets nationwide.

FOR KIDS. To help supplement your child's nutritional requirements, give them UCare milk. UCare comes in two variants that provide total nourishment for children of different ages. For toddlers aged 1-3 years old, there's UCare 1-2-3, a growing-up milk packed with growth boosters, a combination of brain boosters, body helpers and resistance enhancers—important nutrients that promote total growth and development. UCare Powdered Milk is for children aged 4 years and up. It has 25-plus nutrients for the bones, body and health. Made from 100-percent cow's milk, UCare Powdered Milk has a delicious taste that children really love.

Satin Soft
Dual Action
Charm
Satin Soft
Dual Action
Delight
Satin Soft
Dual Action
Enchant

SATIN Soft Lotion is a nongreasy, nonirritating skin conditioner that keeps skin baby-soft and satin-smooth. With a natural pH level that matches the skin and a cool, delicately sweet fragrance, Satin Soft Lotion is the antidote to dull, dehydrated skin. It comes in three budget-friendly variants—Delight (yellow), Enchant (blue) and Charm (pink). Satin Soft Lotion is created by The Rogemson Co. and is available at all leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

How to enjoy summer

Healthy Options
Infertile
OR JUST SLOW TO CONCEIVE
COPING WITH
PANIC ATTACKS
Acupuncture
HOW IT WORKS & WHAT IT FEELS LIKE
Anthocyanins
COLORFUL ANTIOXIDANTS
SUN
PROTECTION TIPS

THE MARCH/APRIL issue of Healthy Options News Digest gives sun protection tips and other interesting facts for summer and the whole year round.

The cover story, "Health buzz," talks about herbal essential oils that will soothe, refresh or remedy summer discomforts; find out how beta carotene protects the skin; and other study findings. In "Natural beauty," smart sunning tips will not only improve your mental health but will also prevent devastating physical effects of overexposure to the sun's rays. Tremendous strides in science have also changed the way people regard infertility, and the Women's Health section will help readers understand that a diagnosis of infertility is not a verdict of sterility. For weight-watchers who want to be health club or gym members, read "Love the gym," which dispels myths, negative notions and other excuses that may be preventing you from shaping up. Finally, know how to spot a genuine herbal treatment through Consumer Alert. Read the health-promoting benefits of acupuncture in "Alternative medicine" and anthocyanins in Supplement Review.

Healthy Options is located at 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/L SM City, North Edsa, QC; 2/L SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; at 2/L SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City; and soon in Pampanga.

A School That Nurtures Your Child So He May Reach His Full Potential.

Reedley International School

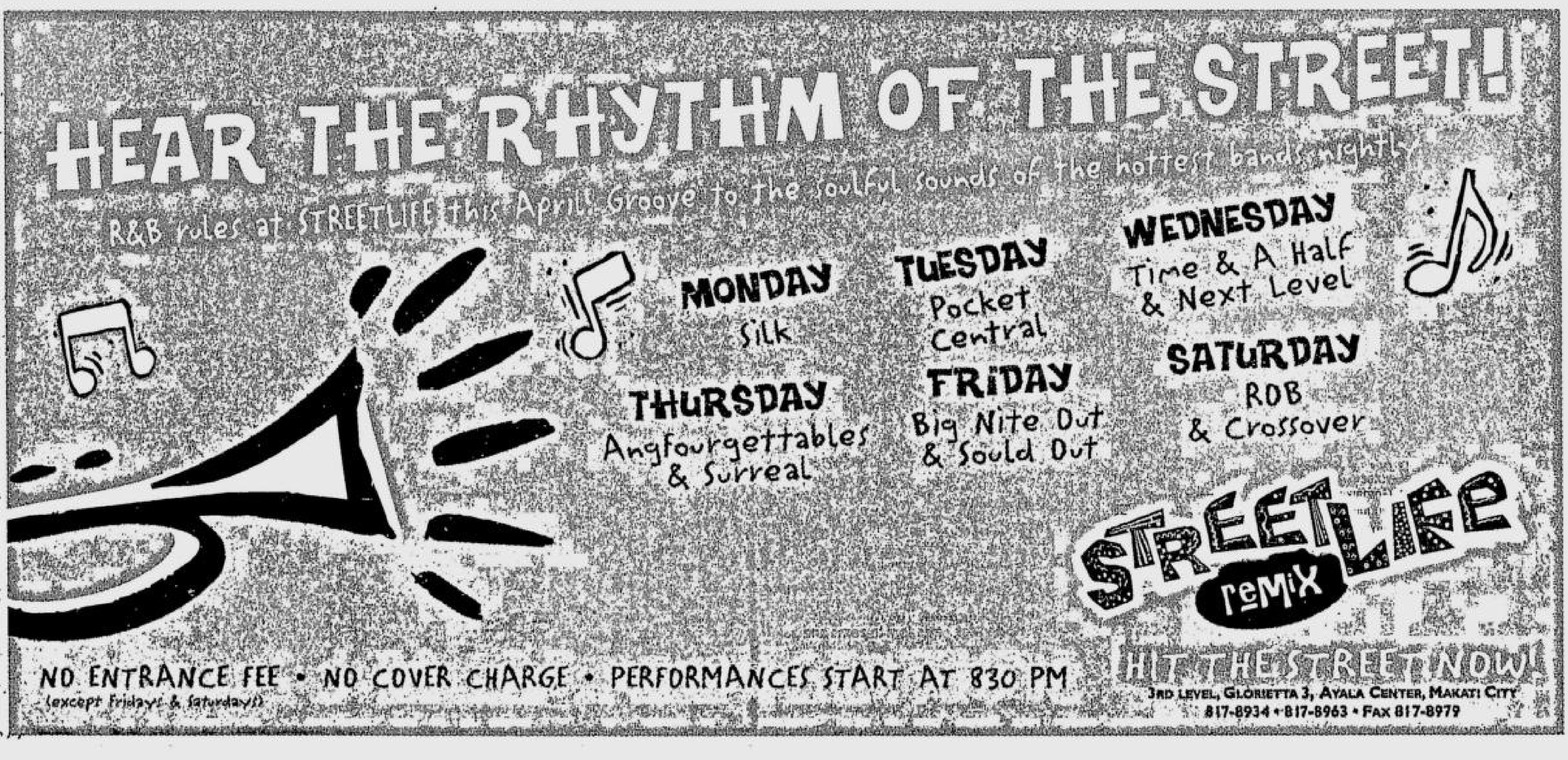
Integrating the best of Singaporean and American curricula from elementary to high school and now even IPS level.

- Excellent program combining Singaporeans' high standards in Math & Sciences and Americans' exceptional communication skills
- Low teacher : student ratio for better classroom interaction
- Air-conditioned classrooms
- A coed international school
- Nurturing atmosphere, encouraging students to grow as creative and critical thinkers with developed social and leadership skills
- Solid academic foundation in preparation for further studies here or abroad

Pasig Boulevard cor. Rosemarie Lane, Pasig City • 671-8982 to 85

School Levels:
Grades 1 – 4 (Lower School)
Grades 5 – 7 (Middle School)
Grades 9 – 12 (Upper School)

Now also accepting students for
IPS - Introduction to
Primary Schooling
(Equivalent to Preparatory)



HEAR THE RHYTHM OF THE STREET!
R&B rules at STREETLIFE this April! Groove to the soulful sounds of the hottest bands nightly
MONDAY Silk
TUESDAY Pocket Central
WEDNESDAY Time & A Half & Next Level
THURSDAY Angfourgettables & Surreal
FRIDAY Big Nite Out & Sould Out
SATURDAY ROB & Crossover
STREETLIFE remix
NO ENTRANCE FEE • NO COVER CHARGE • PERFORMANCES START AT 830 PM
(except Fridays & Saturdays!)
HIT THE STREET NOW!
3RD LEVEL, GLORIETTA 3, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY
817-8934 • 817-8963 • FAX 817-8979

A trip to the moon on a bunk bed

By Angelica Candano

(This essay was one of the winners in the Museo Pambata and Philippine Astronomical Society's on-the-spot essay writing contest held at the Tuklas Science Room of Museo Pambata in celebration of National Astronomy Week.)

WINNER. Immaculate Conception Academy student Angelica L. Candano receives a citation for her winning essay from Museo Pambata director for programs Desiree M Lleno and Philippine Astronomical Society's Bernie Esporlas, chair of National Astronomy Week.

I AM not really sure where I heard of it or even where I read it but a monk had once said "it is better to travel a hundred miles rather than to read a hundred miles of scrolls." I couldn't agree more, but if you can do both, why don't you?

So early on I decided that if I couldn't travel to all the places where I wanted to go—the Amazon Rainforest, the depths of the ocean or even back in time to the Renaissance—I would make it a point to read about them. Travel there not by plane or boat but by paper and ink. Traveling via books is quite easy. All it takes is a book, a nice comfy couch, seat or whatever I can find and my imagination.

Though I did most of my traveling by books, planes were also a good alternative. My father would always say that experience (education, too) are what we need to survive nowadays. And we would make it a point to always jet-set into the wild blue yonder a couple of times a year. But of all the places I would have wanted to go (the Inca Ruins at Machu Pichu, Peru, a Mediterranean cruise or even an Alaskan cruise), space was, is and will always be my dream destination.

Space game

Ever since I was small, my younger sister and I (before the youngest was born) would convert our bunk bed into a space shuttle (we chose it instead of a rocket so that it would be scientifically correct to use it again and again) complete with mission control (couch) and crew (stuffed toys and dolls). We would make up stories about being captured by invisible and obviously non-existent space aliens. Our bed would be a mess after that game—stuffed toys, dolls and bed sheets everywhere and us, laughing our heads off. Our pajamas would be our space suits, backpacks our life-support system and a piece of paper with drawings on it stuck with masking tape on a barbecue stick our flag during our moon landing. But we stopped playing that game. Maybe because we grew too old for that, or our *yayas* got mad at us for making such a mess or we just got tired of that.

One planet

What I like about space is that there are always more questions than answers, more mysteries to solve, more thoughts to ponder. The existence of the unexplained and unexplainable always seems to grab my attention. They always present challenges and when one is solved, another emerges. And, of course, there is the beauty of it, the beauty of something so infinite and mysterious and the fact that different people have different perspectives. Show different people a picture of a crescent moon and one may say it looks like a cookie bitten into a weird shape, another may say another thing. Ask me and I will say that it looks like the Cheshire cat in "Alice in Wonderland" who is "a smile without a cat."

It might sound strange but our differences seem to unite us when it comes to Astronomy. We are one species, one race and we share one planet, one home. These days, with the aid of technology, space is being used as a weapon to send out missiles and to spy on other countries. Why don't we use space to unite us rather than separate us. If peace is within our grasp, why don't we grab it and give it a chance?

In Greek and Roman mythology, the gods and goddesses would put heroes and great animals and creatures up into the night sky to be constellations. I used to look for the outlines of Orion, the great hunter, or Pegasus, the winged horse, and find comfort in just knowing they're up there watching over us.

Recently, I haven't been able to see them, maybe because of the smog in the air or maybe because of the bright lights in the city or maybe I just didn't try hard enough or maybe, just maybe, I didn't believe in them anymore. That is my worst nightmare. That one day children or even children at heart won't see them anymore because of pollution, lights or even worse, not believing in them anymore. When you do not believe, they do not exist and when they do not exist they are gone forever. Please never stop believing.

PASIG RIVER HERITAGE MARATHON
START
INQUIRER
Nature

MARATHONERS warm-up at the starting line.

Let the river flow and the runners run

WHERE most marathon courses use the out-and-back method (meaning, a long, straight course that returns to the starting line as its finish line), the marathon for Pasig River's rehabilitation was a punishing, circuitous point-to-point course that began in front of the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros and ended at the Global City of Fort Bonifacio.

Where most marathons are held in contained routes that are easy for both runners and race marshalls, this one winded through small communities and side streets, whisked across major thoroughfares, contended with pre-dawn traffic and crossed 11 bridges with a view of the Pasig River.

This marathon ran west to east, following the route that Rajah Sulayman took when he fled the Spanish invasion of 1571, sailing 27 km upstream, up to the lake and to the lake town of Bai. It also passed through historical landmarks like Manila City Hall, San Felipe de Neri Church, Quiapo Church and Sta. Ana Church.

Organized by the Clean and Green Foundation, the Philippine Track and Field Association, the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, the MMDA and a host of other government agencies, this marathon aimed to awaken concern for the future of the Pasig River.

FR. Robert Reyes raises the hand of the PRHM champ Crisanto Canillo.

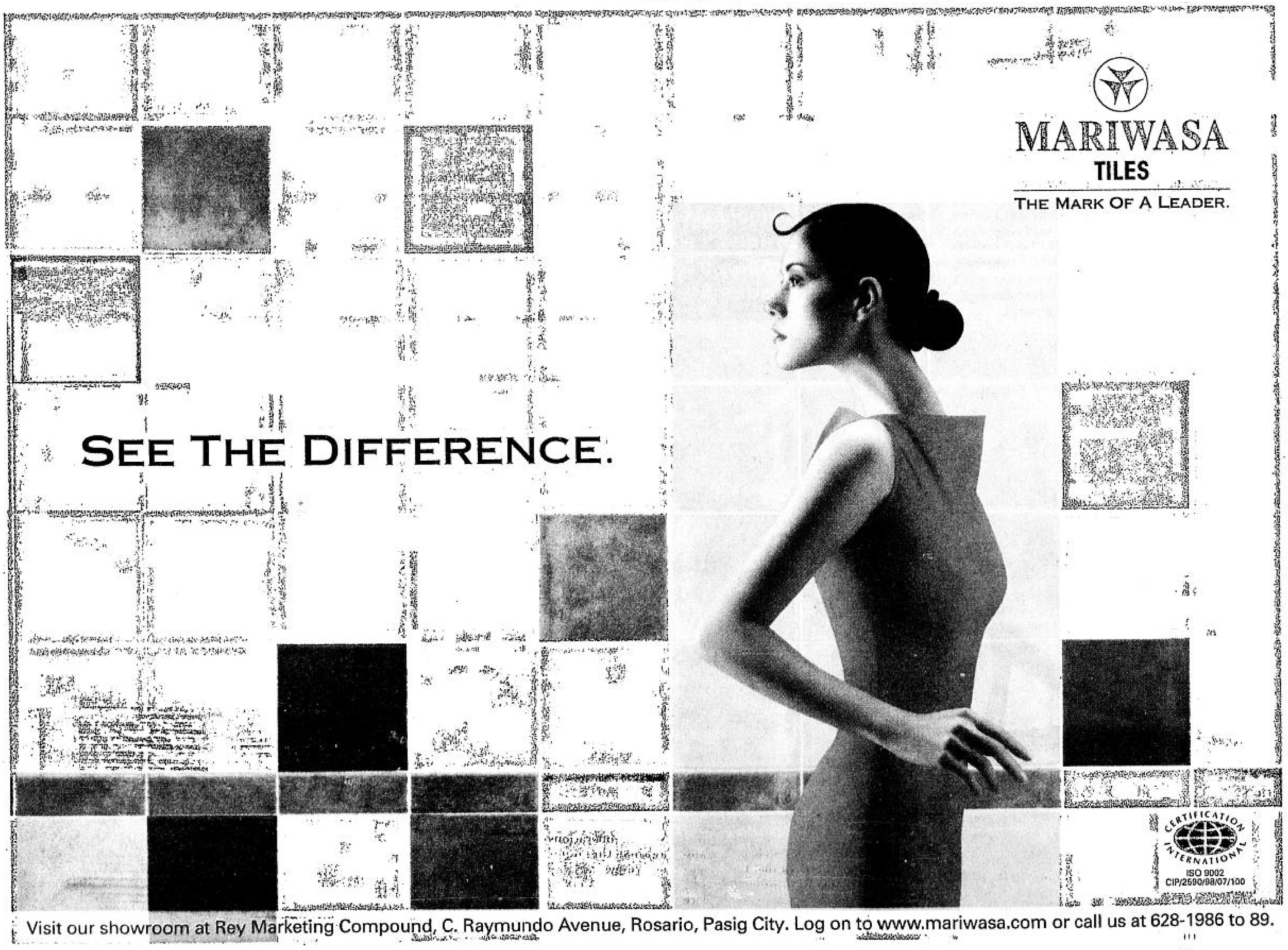
Crisanto Canillo of the Philippine Navy won the marathon. Only older cousin Rovel Canillo (2:43:35) and third placer Roland Cedulio (2:44:02) could keep pace with Canillo, who left others in the dust with his time of 2:28:12.

A neophyte runner, Geraldine Sialza from Sultan Kudarat (3:28:12), outpaced other veteran runners in the women's division, besting Juvy Madredea, Enate Sayrol, Melinda Manahan and Jona Gayumba-Atienza.

Canillo won P50,000 and a trophy while Sialza received P30,000. Cash prizes and trophies were also given to the Oldest Runner (Raymond San Juan, 88), the youngest runner (Ric-Ric Quinawayan III, 4), the group with the biggest participation (Technological Institute of the Philippines) and winners of a 5-K Fun Run which was held simultaneously inside the Global City.

Race organizers led by Imelda P. Sarmiento, C&GFI executive director, said the PRHM, which is only on its second run this year, is advocating for the continued rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

The long-term dream is to institutionalize the event so that the country can have its own version of an in-city marathon akin to the New York, Boston, London and Berlin Marathons.

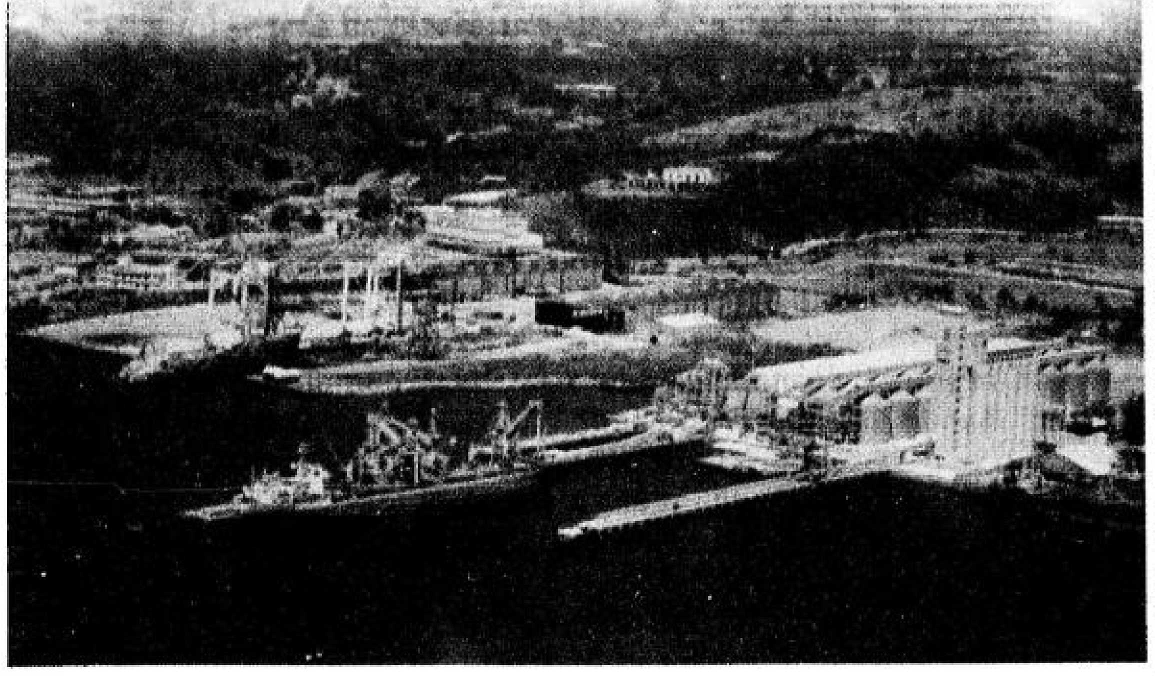

MARIWASA
TILES
THE MARK OF A LEADER.
SEE THE DIFFERENCE.
CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
ISO 9002
CIP/2590/98/07/100
Visit our showroom at Rey Marketing Compound, C. Raymundo Avenue, Rosario, Pasig City. Log on to www.mariwasa.com or call us at 628-1986 to 89.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2002

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATAAN DAY
ARAW NG KAGITINGAN

Theme: "Magiting na Lumipas, Magandang Bukas."

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor



Messages

Today's celebration of Araw ng Kagitingan is dedicated to the ideals of freedom, unity and progress.

It comes also at a time when we are in the midst of the RP-US Balikatan Exercise 02-1, a joint military exercise between the Philippines and the United States as an essential step in mutually strengthening their respective military capabilities to respond to the global threat of terrorism.

Araw ng Kagitingan is also our way of paying homage to the countless Filipino war dead, as well as the veterans who are still withus. To these brave hearts who fell in Bataan and Corregidor, and in the many other places and times, let us join hands in common bereavement.

Let us stay united in common rejection of war as an instrument of national policy, wherein victory does not come with the defeat of the enemy but merely the beginning of a greater battle for economic progress, social reforms, political stability and national cohesion.

Today's enemies are mass poverty, graft and corruption, lawlessness, disunity and divisiveness.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Throughout history, the people of Bataan have shown their gallantry and bravery before the world. Four centuries ago, our forefathers resisted the plundering Dutch invaders. It was a fierce battle with our locals choosing the glory of death to the ignominy of surrender.

Yet, we have endured as we now face the future with bright prospects. The last decade brought us progress incomparable to all of history combined. Investment is on its peak; communication is modernized; human index is at its highest; infrastructure is at its best; education is of high quality; environment is well protected; employment is at its highest and crime rate is at its lowest.

All these we dedicate to April 9, which is not only a day for Bataan but also a day for all the nations of the world. For it was on that day, sixty years ago, that the grounds of Bataan were consecrated by the heroism of our World War II veterans. Bataan in 1942 was when the barriers of regionalism in Philippine history was first broken. It was when Ilocanos, Pampangos, Cebuanos, Bicolanos and the rest joined hands with their American brothers to fight for a common stand.

And we remember. For it is only by remembering that we will be ready to face the challenges of the future.

For now, let us celebrate as Bataan has risen high enough to meet the demands of the world.

Governor Leonardo B. Roman
Governor of Bataan

BATAAN: 60 years after

By Leo Ruben Manrique

Bataan was one of the most devastated provinces in the Asia-Pacific region sixty years ago. The destruction was so huge to overcome that recovery and progress had to take the sidelines in favor of survival. No one could have foreseen what the future had in store.

But the dedication of our people to prosperity was even greater than all the challenges. We have proven that we can overcome, as our province, sixty years later, is now in the forefront of socio-economic development in Central Luzon.

Bataan has the distinct honor of being the first and only fully energized province in the whole country. Even the remotest sitios in far-flung barangays now enjoy the convenience of electricity.

With energy, comes rapid industrialization. Being in the middle of the "growth triangle" in Central Luzon with Subic and Clark completing the triad, the region has become an economic haven. And it all started here in Bataan.

Thirty years ago, long before global economics was an issue, Bataan initiated the idea of directly competing with other countries in the international market. The then Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) established the first and until now the biggest export zone in Mariveles now known as as the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ). It's success led to the establishment of ecozones in Baguio, Mactan and Calabarzon area. It has also become a framework for the creation of SBMA and Clark Economic Zone. Today, more than 50 per cent of the country's dollar earnings come from economic zones. There are four ecozones in Bataan, the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ) and the Petrochemical Industrial Estate in Mariveles, the Bataan Technology Park in Morong and the Hermosa Special Economic Zone in Hermosa town.

The province is also host to several industries and businesses, notably: The San Miguel Grains Terminal, the ATI, Petron Refinery, Phil. Explosives, Asia Brown Bovery, Limay Bulk Handling Terminal, Limay Grinding Mills, Inc., Unioil, Liquigas and Total Petroleum. Owing to their presence is the fact that Bataan has one of the highest employment rate in Region III.

High employment rate is a contributing factor why crime rate here is among the lowest in the country and the Crime Solution Efficiency Rate is at 98.3 per cent.

And what is development without infrastructure, which is said to be the portrait of a progressive state? Bataan's entire 800-kilometer road had been fully developed. A new road on the western side of the peninsula, which will connect Mariveles to Bagac is now under construction and the Subic - Clark access road will start construction soon. This will shorten the travel time from Manila to Bataan by an hour thus making the province more accessible to the Metropolis.

At present, there are 6 bus companies, 302 units of mini-buses, 891 units of jeepneys giving their services to commuters. The port of Orion, a newly opened national port, was designed for roll-on-roll-off ships to carry passengers to and from Manila. There are two ferryboats that ply the Orion-Manila route. Travel time to Manila via Manila bay is less than one hour.

The Provincial Government has completed construction of the Bataan People's Center, an 8000-seat coliseum which is now the favorite venue of sports and cultural activities in the province. It has also become one of the regular venues of PBA games. The Bataan Transport Mall, located in the heart of the City of Balanga is now operational. It has decongested traffic in major thoroughfares of the city. A 1,000-unit Provincial Government Housing Project, the first of its kind, is nearing completion in Samal town. Communication in the province has been modernized with two of the largest telecommunication firms in the country operating here, PLDT and DIGITEL. Private initiatives that add to the telecommunication services are the operations of various franchise holders such as Battlex Inc.,LBC, JRS, PT&T, DHL, Easycall, Mobiline, Smart and Globe Telecom. There are several internet service providers in the province. Space Cable TV in Mariveles and Balanga, Clear-Vision Cable in Orani and MABUHAY TV in Abucay and Samal provide Cable Television services

In the field of education, Bataan has 199 elementary schools, 42 High Schools and 13 Colleges. Soon, Letran College will open its Bataan Campus in a 10-hectare site in Abucay by 2003, while Kalayaan College founded by University of the Philippines professors and educators will open this year, also in Abucay.

The Bataan Child Empowerment Council, a creation of the Provincial Government, has recently adopted the Gabay-Bata Program to assist in the rearing of children during their critical years of formation.

There are 10 hospitals here with a combined bed capacity of 560, 12 Universal and Commercial Banks, six first class shopping malls, two first-run movie houses, four 3-star hotels, eight in-land resorts, and quite a number of beautiful beaches.

Just recently, the province was awarded the Gawad Makataong Pag-unlad by the Human Development Network for attaining the highest level in Human Development Index as recognized by the United Nations Development

BATAAN/p.4

Gawad sa makataong pag-unlad

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo together with former President Fidel V. Ramos congratulates Governor Ding Roman for attaining the highest level of human development index since 1994 to present.

Gov. Leonardo "Ding" Roman said that he considers as an awakening and an inspiration the achievement award for human development received by Bataan from the Human Development Network (HDN) headed by its President Professor Solita Collas Monsod in cooperation with the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)

"For the last decade as governor of Bataan, we have been looking for solutions to improve the lot, especially of the less fortunate in the province, until we received this award, as if telling us that we are on the right track", Roman said.

Bataan was awarded the Gawad sa Makataong Pag-unlad for attaining the highest level in human development index since 1994. The award was given by HDN in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and National Economic Development Authority.

Bataan was recognized for registering the highest level in life expectancy, basic education and per capita income.

Hon. Leonardo B. Roman
Governor

Hon. Rogelio G. Roque
Vice-Governor

Magiting na Lumipas, Magandang Bukas

Ang kagitingan ng mga Tagapagtanggol ng Bataan ay nasaksihan ng buong mundo hindi lamang noong nakaraang Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig.

Ang kagitingan na ipinamalas ng ating mga bayani animnapung taon na ang nakalilipas ay buhay pa rin sa puso at diwa ng kasalukuyang henerasyon.

Ang kagitingan at kabayanihang iyan ay muling ipinamalas ng mga magulang na nagsakripisyo upang makapag-aral ang kanilang mga mahal sa buhay ng karamihan sa kanila ay magtatapos sa taong ito sa kolehiyo, mataas na baitang at elementarya.

Muling nabuhay ang mga bayani ng ating lahi sa katauhan ng ating mga magulang at guro na nagpapahalaga sa edukasyon ng ating mga kabataan.

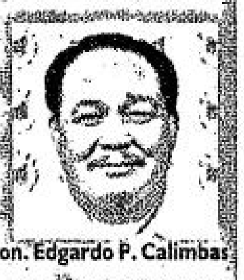
Ang Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Bataan ay nagpupugay sa mga bayani ng lumipas at sa mga bayaning buhay sa kasalukuyang panahon.

Kaagapay po ninyo ang inyong pamunuang panlalawigan sa inyong pagtahak ng landas tungo sa ibayo pang tagumpay at kaunlaran.

Sana'y manatili sa ating lahat ang diwa ng kagitingan ng ating mga bayani sa lahat ng panahon.

Ang Bataan ay may Magiting na Lumipas at Magandang Bukas.

Hon. Lucila P. Payumo



Hon. Edgardo P. Calimbas

Hon. Edwin Y. Enrile

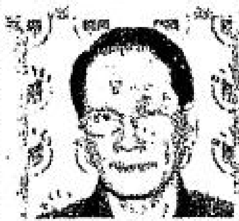
Hon Fernando C. Austria

Hon. Reynaldo Y. Muli

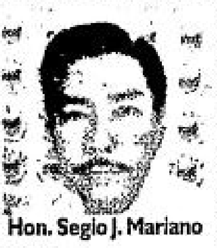
Hon. Melanio S. Banzon, Jr.

Hon. Wilfredo C. Apostol

Hon. Dante R. Manalaysay



Hon. Rodolfo S. Salandanan



Hon. Segio J. Mariano

Hon. Jose M. Carandang

Hon. Reynaldo T. Ibe

Hon. Junilene E. Viesca

4,000-man USN second warship in honor of Bataan heroes

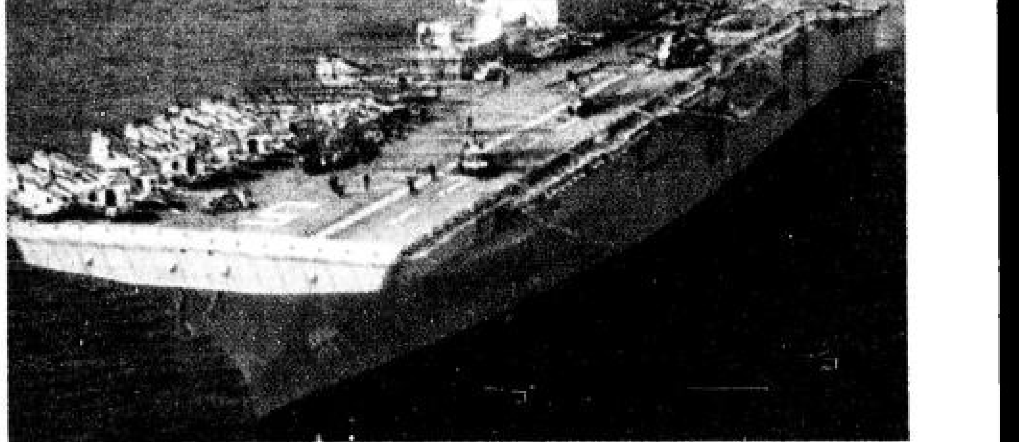
USS BATAAN is the LHD 5, the new multi-purpose amphibious assault ship of the United States Navy. It made its debut during the Gulf War and just recently, it was in Afghanistan making its presence felt in the war against terrorism.

USS Bataan has six hundreds hospital beds and 4,000 crewmembers. Its mess hall is called "Abucay Café" named after the town of Abucay, Bataan where American and Filipino soldiers had their last decent meal before the relentless and devastating Japanese onslaught that lasted for three months.

Governor Leonardo Roman and then Congressman, now SBMA Chairman Felicito Payumo were invited to the commissioning ceremony of the USS Bataan in Mississippi, USA. At that time, many Americans were wondering why the newest warship of the US Navy was named after a far away place instead of a US President, or one of the 50 States. Some of them did not even know where Bataan is.

It is not very well known that the LHD 5 is the second warship to be named USS Bataan as a tribute to the gallantry and heroism of the defenders of Bataan Peninsula during the early days of World War II. The first was the USS Bataan (CVL 29), launched and commissioned in 1944. CVL 29 earned seven battle stars for its World War II service in the Pacific, which included the battle of the Philippine Sea and operations against the Japanese home islands. The ship was also used during the Korean conflict in 1950 before finally being decommissioned in 1954.

USS BATAAN (LHD 5)
United States Navy Multipurpose Amphibious Assault Ship



MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT TO THE
BATAAN DECLARATION

A commitment to the environmental protection and sustainable development in the Province of Bataan by the Concerned Stakeholders

Ensuring sustainable development of Bataan is of critical importance to the well-being of the Central Luzon and Manila Bay regions as it threads the path to economic and social development. The improvement of the Province's environmental systems requires integrated solutions and actions and the dynamic partnerships among its coastal municipalities, government agencies, non-government organizations, the business community as well as other concerned groups and individuals that make Bataan whole.

As concerned stakeholders of Bataan, we recognize the need to address critical environmental concerns in the province as well as the present and future challenges.

We realize the significant role of Bataan in the national and regional economic and social development and in consideration of the current state of Manila Bay's environment.

We are determined to realize a vision of a well-developed community with abundant natural resources, clean environment and responsible citizenry empowered to care for nature and its bounty.

As such, we solemnly declare our commitment to fulfill our responsibilities to implement the Coastal Strategy of the Province of Bataan, and pledge to take actions to conscientiously preserve and protect Bataan's environment and natural resources for the sake of the present but most especially the future generations. And we call on other stakeholders to stand with us in making this commitment.

Signed on the 9th of April 2002 in the Province of Bataan.

Hon. Leonardo B. Roman
Governor
Province of Bataan

Hon. Rogelio G. Roque
Vice Governor
Province of Bataan

Hon. Jose Alejandre P. Payumo III
President, Mayors' League and
Mayor, Municipality of Dinalupihan, Bataan

Marilou G. Erni
President, Bataan Coastal Care Foundation, Inc.
and Executive Director, Petron Foundation, Inc.

Villamor B. Santos
President
Alyansa ng mga
Mangingisda sa Bataan

Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco
Bishop
Archdiocese of Balanga

Emilio C. Aguila, Jr.
Treasurer, Bataan Coastal
Care Foundation and
Bataan Polyethylene Corporation

Orlando C. Alparce, Jr.
Vice President, Bataan Coastal
Care Foundation and Philippine
Resins Industries, Inc.

Elvira Tanchuco
Secretary,
Bataan Coastal Care Foundation, Inc.
& PNOC – Petrochemical Dev't Corp.

Fr. Gerry Jorge
Executive Director
CARITAS Bataan

Dr. Norma C. Castillo
Schools Division Superintendent
Department of Education - Bataan

Jaime E. Centeno
PENR Officer
DENR – Bataan

Romeo A. Bontuyan
Provincial Director
Dept. of Interior & Local Govt - Bataan

Rosalie V. Ona
Provincial Director- Dept. of Science
and Technology - Bataan

Crispin C. Tria
Branch Manager
Philippine Rural Reconstruction
Movement – Bataan

Alexander M. Baluyot
Provincial Planning and Dev't Coordinator
Office of the Provincial Agriculturist

Julito D. Velasco
Provincial Agriculturist
Provincial Planning and Dev't Office

Ceasar Cuayson
Provincial Tourism Officer
Provincial Tourism Office - Bataan

Hon. Junilene E. Viesca
Sangguniang Kabataan
President/Board Member
Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Bataan

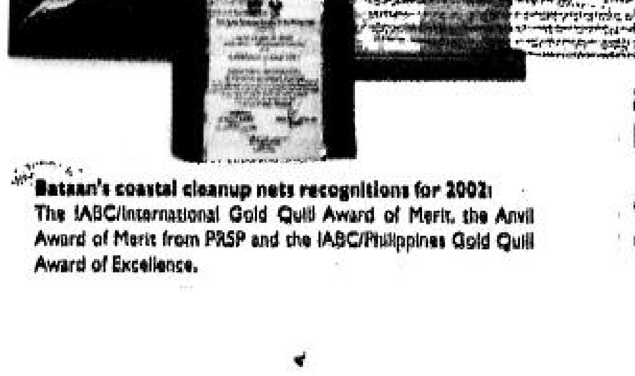
Hon. Dante R. Manalaysay
Board Member/Chairman Committee on Environment
Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Bataan

Hon. Rolando S. Banzon
President, Vice Mayors' League, Province of Bataan
Vice Mayor, Municipality of Orion, Bataan

KONTRA
KALAT
SA
DAGAT
BATAAN, PHILIPPINES
Water cleans people
VOLUNTEER

Bataan
Coastal Care
Foundation, Inc.

CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENT



Bataan's coastal cleanup nets recognitions for 2002:
The IABC/International Gold Quill Award of Merit, the Anvil Award of Merit from PRSP and the IABC/Philippines Gold Quill Award of Excellence.

Since September 1999, the people of Bataan have made caring for the environment an integral part of their lives. This commitment is anchored on a regular coastal cleanup drive called KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT.

In just a few years, KKD has combed 107.2 kilometers of coastline and collected 329 metric tons of garbage that litter the shore. And through their efforts, they have catalyzed a sustainable development program called BIGKIS-BATAAN or Bigay Galing sa Kalikasan ng Bataan.

We salute all our volunteers – government workers, business employees, students, people's organizations, religious people, housewives and fisherfolk – who make Kontra Kalat sa Dagat and the cleaning of Bataan a lasting legacy for the future of our children.

Fostering public-private partnership towards sustainable development in Bataan

BIGKIS-BATAAN
BIGAY GALING SA KALIKASAN NG BATAAN

By Allan Victorino

On January 29, 2002, Bataan Governor proudly strode to the stage of the Hotel Intercontinental to receive the Philippine Gold Quill Award of Excellence for the province's coastal cleanup program KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT. Given by the International Association of Business Communicators Philippines (IABC/Philippines), it was the first time the awards were handed out, making Bataan among only a handful of pioneer recipients who raise the standards of business communication in the Philippines.

A month after, in February 22, Kontra Kalat sa Dagat was again declared winner, this time of the prestigious Anvil Awards from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. The Anvil Award of Merit was Bataan's second in a row since 2000.

For a province implementing a long-term Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) project, the string of awards clearly indicate that the coastal cleanup initiative has successfully catalyzed public support and fostered partnerships in environmental management in Bataan.

Called BIGKIS-BATAAN or Bigay Galing sa Kalikasan ng Bataan, this environmental management program aims to ensure that the province's natural resources are carefully utilized in support of economic development. Such an ambitious undertaking can only succeed through the dynamic participation of every sector in Bataan.

Fortunately, the holding of the first Kontra Kalat sa Dagat in September 1999 not only gave birth to the regular conduct of the activity all across the province. It also gave rise to the sealing of a partnership among the Bataan Provincial Government and its attendant agencies, the private sector led by the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation (BCCF) and the active civil society movement in the province. Together and with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme and International Maritime Organization (UNDP-IMO), they are ensuring that sustainable development becomes an integral part of Bataan's masterplan for the future. A major result of this commitment has been the formulation of the Bataan Coastal Strategy, a blueprint for nurturing the province's abundant resources. This document was the product of a number of multi-sectoral consultations and stakeholder involvement.

Barely over two years into the BIGKIS-BATAAN program, Bataan finds itself reaping a windfall of achievements, such as generating thousands of volunteers for its Kontra Kalat sa Dagat and mangrove reforestation drive, educating its residents on the value of nature, building new partnerships and strengthening existing ones, formulating solutions to avoid conflicts among the many users of its natural resources, and helping a bigger cause of cleaning Manila Bay. Not to mention the awards that it has received along the way.

On June 10, 2002, Bataan will take centerstage in the global arena as it receives the International Gold Quill Award of Merit for Kontra Kalat sa Dagat at the IABC Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Bataaan Gov. Ding Roman, BCCF President Malu Emi and Bataan Mayor's League President Jose Alejandre Payumo III symbolize the public-private partnership during the presentation of the Bataan Coastal Declaration

Mariveles Mayor Angel Peliglorio is joined in the Kontra Kalat sa Dagat by volunteers from various sectors of society in a showcase of dynamic partnerships among all stakeholders.

Bataan's Rhollie and BCCF President Malu Emi receive for the province its 2nd consecutive Anvil Award of Merit for KKD.

List of Activities - 2002
Observance of "Araw ng Kagitingan"

March 18-27	
8:00am-5:00pm	Film Showing Provincial Tourism Office
April 6-8	
8:00am-5:00pm	KagitinganPhoto Exhibit 24th IB-Bataan Bulwagan ng Kapayapaan
April 3	
9:00am	History Quiz Department of Education "Ang mga Kagitingan ng Bataan"
April 4	
2:00pm	Clean & Green/Coastal Brgy. BTCFI/GSP Building Awarding Ceremonies
April 5	
11:00am	Bataan Veterans Fellowship Veterans Federation of Bataan
8:00am	South Border Concert J. Tancious Enterprises Bataan People's Center
April 6	
4:00pm	Bataan People's Center Boxing Championships
April 6-7	Military Vehicle Parade 24th IB-Bataan Municipal Veteran's Celebration Municipal Mayor's League of Bataan
April 8	
7:00pm	Bataan Strikes Back Concert Open House Enterprise Bataan People's Center
April 9	
8:00am	Araw ng Kagitingan Mt. Samat, Pilar, Bataan
9:00am	Bataan's Petron First Aid Diwa, Pilar, Bataan
2:00pm	"Rise in Bataan" Symposium Bulwagan ng Kapayapaan

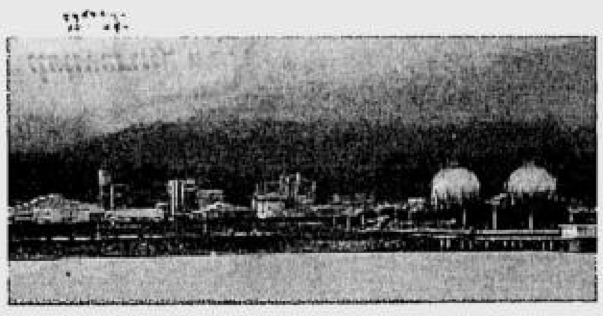
There's a lot of service we do outside our stations.

PETRON FOUNDATION

Service is in the heart of everything we do. Not only is this apparent in our products and services, but also in our employees' drive for public service. That's why we have the 14-year old motorist assistance program, LAKBAY ALALAY, and environmental projects like KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT (coastal clean-up) and PUNO NG BUHAY (tree planting). And that's why we also support HABITAT FOR HUMANITY and LAKBAYANIHAN medical missions to communities across the country. All these borne out of a heartfelt desire to serve the Filipino.

Pusong Pinoy. PETRON

DINALUPIHAN
HERMOSA
ORANI
SAMAL
MORONG
ABUCAY
BALANGA
PILAR
BAGAC
LIMAY
MARIVELES



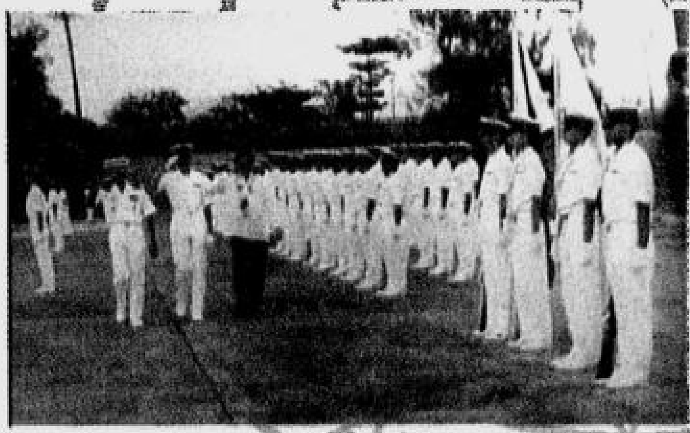
Nakikiisa ang PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation sa Paggunita ng Kabayanihan nating mga Pilipino sa

ARAW NG KAGITINGAN

PNOC
Petrochemicals

BATAAN HOUSING PROJECT
The Provincial Government of Bataan in a joint venture with HUDCC spearheads a 1,000-unit housing project, the first of its kind in the country. (Above) Government officials led by Gov. Leonardo B. Roman and HUDCC Chief Sec. Mike Defensor view the scale model of the Bataan Peninsula Heights housing project.

COLEGIO DE SAN JUAN DE LETRAN
One of the main thrust of the province is to invite quality schools. Photo above is a scale model of Letran College which



Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) Governor Roman during the corps formation of the cadets of a World Class Maritime Academy located in Kamaya Point, Mariveles, Bataan.

BATAAN PEOPLES CENTER
The Bataan Peoples Center located at Capitol Compound, was recently inaugurated. This 8,000-capacity dome is one of the projects of Gov. Roman which is envisioned to be the site of various sports and cultural events. It is now the most popular venue for provincial activities.

GREETINGS ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 60*th* ANNIVERSARY OF

BATAAN DAY

AND

ARAW NG KAGITINGAN

FROM:

PRII

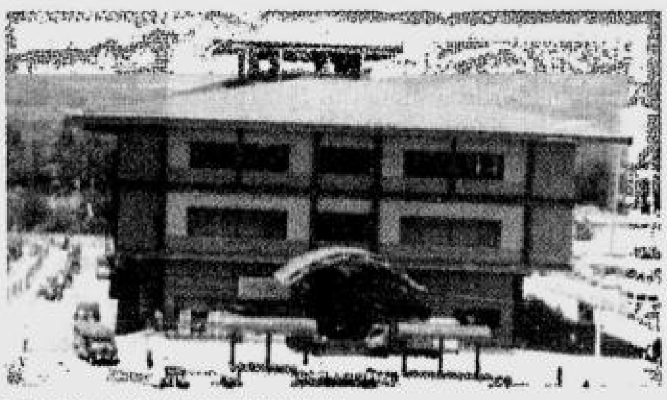
PHILIPPINE RESINS INDUSTRIES INC.

The country's largest polyvinyl chloride (PVC) manufacturing company, utilizing state-of-the art technology.....
living up to to its commitment of responsible corporate citizenship....
contributing to the industrial growth and development not only of Bataan but the country's overall economy.

MAKATI OFFICE:
Unit 2104 Antel 2000 Corporate Centre 121 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel No.: (02) 751-5273-76 & 8871-242
Fax No.: (02) 751-5283 - 84
Email Address: info@prii.com.ph / sales@prii.com.ph

PLANT OFFICE:
PPDC Petrochemical Industrial Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
Tel No.: (047) 244-6406
Fax No.: (047) 244-7108 / 244-5976

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL
UKAS QUALITY MANAGEMENT
ISO 9001:2000
Cert. No. CI/3043
063



BATAAN TRANSPORT MALL NOW OPEN
The Bataan Transport Mall, is now operational. The terminal was envisioned to provide commuters comfortable transport and facilities, and to decongest traffic in major thoroughfares of the city. It is owned and operated by the Provincial Government of Bataan.

KONTRA KALAT SA DAGAT
Bataan is now one of the Demonstration Sites of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Program in East Asia.

GREETINGS ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF

BATAAN DAY

AND

ARAW NG KAGITINGAN

from: **BATAAN POLYETHYLENE CORPORATION**

BATAAN POLYETHYLENE CORPORATION

MAKATI OFFICE:
11/F All Asia Capital Center
105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel Nos. (632) 848 2147
Fax No.: (632) 848 2197
PLANT OFFICE:
PPDC-Petrochemical Complex
Batangas II, Mariveles, Bataan
Tel Nos. (63) (47) 2447501 - 10
Fax No.: (63) (47) 244 7519

We are a company of individuals dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by delivering world-class performance, both in our products and services, as we present solutions to our customers' diverse needs. Working together, we provide premium quality and performance in Polyethylene resins to the Philippines, and the rest of the world.

THE DE GUZMAN GROUP
(BATAAN)

BALANGA REPUBLIC CAFÉ
3rd Floor, Centre Plaza Mall, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. # 791-1698

JOLLIBEE
BALANGA, BATAAN
J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. # 237-0370

CENTRE PLAZA MALL
Saint Joseph St. Poblacion
Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. # 237-7007

JOLLIBEE
ORANI, BATAAN
Centro 1, Orani, Bataan
Tel. # 431-1999

Expressions
(Expressions Balanga)
1st Floor, Centre Plaza Mall, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel # 791-2077

VILLAGE DRUG CORPORATION
(Mercury Drug Orani)
Kathea Building, Centro I, Orani, Bataan
Tel. # 431-1189

GREENWICH
(Greenwich Balanga)
1st Floor, Centre Plaza Mall, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. # 237-7676

MT. SAMAT
FERRY EXPRESS, INC.
Puting Buhangin, Orion, Bataan
Tel. # 0192-318-4334
Manila Office Tel. # (02) 551-5290

GUESS?
(Guess? Balanga)
2nd Floor, Centre Plaza Mall, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. # 791-3780

ORANI MEMORIAL PARK
Bayan, Orani, Bataan
Tel. # 431-1063

icmc
ISAAC & CATALINA MEDICAL CENTER
Calero St., Ibayo, Balanga City, Bataan
Tel. # 237-4004

VILLAGE SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
Orani Branch - Centro 1, Orani, Bataan Tel. # 431-1236
Orion Branch - Orion, Bataan Tel. # 244-4145
Abucay Branch - Abucay, Bataan Tel. # 481-1445

Bataan...

From page E1

Programme. This is a resounding proof that the province of Bataan has the highest level in life expectancy, basic education and per capita income in the entire country.

Our care for the environment is just as important. The Integrated Coastal Management Program of the Provincial Government and the Bataan Coastal Care Foundation has gained international recognition when it's Kontra Kalat sa Dagat activities received two international awards. It was the recipient of the first Philippine Gold Quill Award for Excellence and had two Anvil Awards of Merit for the year 2001 and 2002.

This is what the Province of Bataan has become in the sixty years of peace. Bataan has arrived!